Who Participates?

High school students across Texas applied to become participants at the camp.

- 23 students were selected to attend the camp
- 20 high school students attended the camp
- 15 guest speakers and presenters, including State Rep. James Talarico (D-Round Rock), facilitated sessions to students
- 10 AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteers stationed in Austin facilitated discussions with students

Students who were selected to participate represented the following cities: Austin, Dallas, DeSoto, El Paso, Harlingen, Houston, Katy, Kingwood, Richardson, Round Rock, San Antonio.

The opinions that I regularly hear are one-sided. The program has opened my mind to different opinions. It also makes me want to get out into my community to help out. I volunteer, but now I feel I can do so much more for my community.

Harlingen High School - South Student

YES! 2018-19 By the Numbers

YES! Students who Strongly Agree with the Following Statements after Completing the Camp

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Before YES!</th>
<th>After YES!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I can make a difference in my community</td>
<td></td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voting is important</td>
<td></td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working together can solve community problems better than working alone</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community involvement through volunteering or donating is important</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The rights and interests of people in my community are important</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowing people in my community (school, neighborhood, city) is important</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

94% of YES! students are very confident that they can effectively communicate with someone who has a different opinion, compared to 56% before YES! Civic Leaders Academy.

Student Measure Confidence: I can create an action plan for making an idea happen

- Before YES! Very Confident: 50%
- Before YES! Somewhat Confident: 33%
- Before YES! Unconfident: 17%
- After YES! Very Confident: 81%
- After YES! Somewhat Confident: 19%
- After YES! Unconfident: 0%

Student Measure Confidence: I can contact an elected official about an issue I care about

- Before YES! Very Confident: 39%
- Before YES! Somewhat Confident: 33%
- Before YES! Unconfident: 17%
- After YES! Very Confident: 88%
- After YES! Somewhat Confident: 11%
- After YES! Unconfident: 0%
Youth Empowered for Success! (YES!) Civic Leaders Academy

About

In collaboration with the Texas PTA, the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life hosts the Youth Empowered for Success (YES!) Civic Leaders Academy, a two and a half day summer camp for raising high school juniors and seniors across Texas. During the camp, students cultivate civic skills and knowledge to become active citizens and the leaders of today. Drive by action civics, YES! combines civic content with 21st century skills by engaging rising high school seniors in hands-on programming to improve their own civic health and to empower them to make changes when returning to their communities. Student sessions provide resources, tools, and strategies to understand the importance of civic health, connect with diverse groups in a community, research community issues, analyze differing perspectives, develop advocacy campaigns, and coordinate community events.

Program Features

YES! provides students 15 fun and interactive sessions to explore their personal and communal identities, practice civic leadership skills, and reflect on the civic knowledge they gained throughout the camp.

Program sessions include:

- Q&A with State Representative James Talarico (D-Round Rock)
- 5-Minute Elevator Speech Training
- Owning Your Identity Session
- Leadership & Social Connectedness with CoMeTrY
- College Student Panel with New Politics Forum’s Texas Civic Ambassadors
- Building Your Civic Network Session
- KUT Podcast Recording
- Facilitating Voter Registration at Your School Session
- Practicing Civil Dialogue with the UT Division of Diversity and Community Engagement
- Identifying Community Issue and Spreading Awareness with Josh LaFair, Co-Creator of MapMaker: The Gerrymandering Game
- Social Media & Digital Activism Scavenger Hunt on UT’s Campus
- Won’t You Be My Neighbor Movie Screening
- Media Literacy: Finding Balance & Avoiding Misinformation with Cindy Fisher of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission
- How to Host a Bipartisan and Nonpartisan Event Session

I want to take a stand and use my power to advocate for my city. I plan to contact my city council person and use the tools speakers have taught us to plan an event around a certain city topic. I intend to follow up with the speakers to use their resources and get tips for this event.

Skyline High School Student

For more information about YES! Civic Leaders Academy, contact Heather Vaughn, the K-12 Educational Outreach Coordinator at the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life.

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