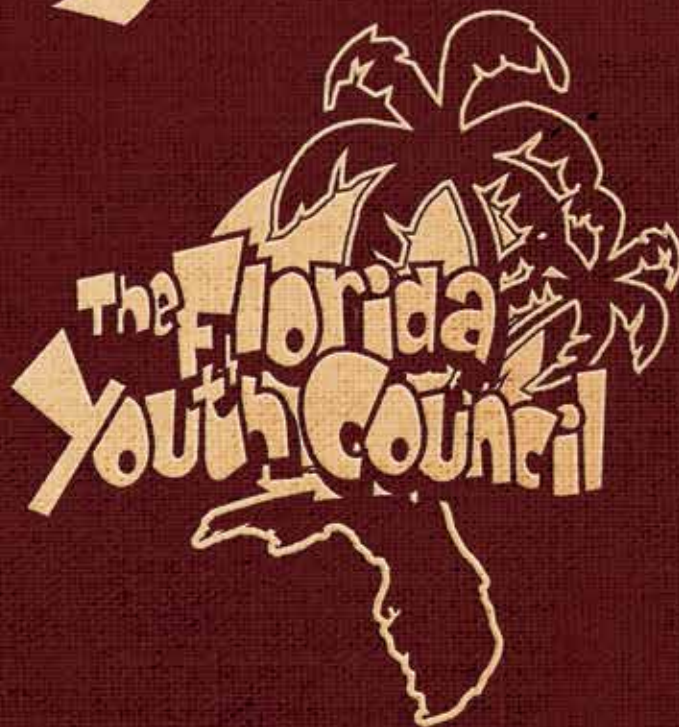


The 14th Annual
**YOUTH
SUMMIT**



A CONFERENCE FOR YOUTH
AND EMERGING LEADERS
WITH DISABILITIES

JULY 30 - 31, 2021

Welcome!

The 14th Annual Youth Summit presented by The Florida Youth Council and The Family Café is finally here! The Florida Youth Council (FYC) is excited to welcome you and all youth and emerging leaders to this special event!

The FYC is a group of young Floridians with disabilities that are focused on growing leadership and encouraging their peers to succeed in life. The Annual Youth Summit (AYS) is a two-day event that is designed by the youth and emerging leaders of the FYC to be completely by youth, for youth.

Since 2008, the year of The 1st Annual Youth Summit, the FYC has hosted more than 3,000 youth and emerging leaders from across the state of Florida at their signature event. Every August, they have come together with their peers to learn, network, and expand their leadership skills. The Annual Youth Summit has exposed attendees to more than 90 presentations that have helped prepare them for various aspects of adulthood, with a range of topics, including making it on your own, adopting a healthy, active lifestyle, and participating in our democracy by voting. The Annual Youth Summit also been fortunate to host a series of excellent keynote presenters who have inspired participants while helping them to consider the challenges that come with transition to adulthood. Most of all, the FYC is proud of the way The Annual Youth Summit has given youth and emerging leaders the opportunity to make friends that will last a lifetime.

Here in 2021, The Florida Youth Council has once again come together to create another terrific event in The 14th Annual Youth Summit, taking their inspiration from the film Jumanji: The Next Level. Just like the players trapped in the Jumanji game, every young person with a disability has to navigate their way through complex challenges by working with their peers to find the way forward. No one can do it alone, but together, we can overcome anything!

The FYC is extremely confident that everyone will have fun and enjoy all of the activities planned for this weekend, and maybe even make a few new friends. If there's anything you need while you're here, or if you have any suggestions about how we can make The Annual Youth Summit better, please let us know! Find us here at the event or contact Youth Advisor Niki Germain at ngermain@familycafe.net.

Yours,
The Florida Youth Council

John Howard Baldino
Alexander Gonzalez
William Lupella
Christina Waldron
Shevie Barnes
Leah Gorman

Michelle Sandiford
Serena Wetmore
Derek Carraway
JJ Humphrey
Josue Tapia
Brandon White



WELCOME SESSION

Friday, 3:30pm- 4:00pm
Legacy North



COVID GAVE ME LEADERSHIP?!

Lacy Dicharry
Friday 4:00pm- 6:00pm
Legacy North

This year can be summed up in one word for most people – mine is bizarre. And also, transformational. Going through really challenging times is hard in the moment, but we can gain a lot from going through hard things. Yes! COVID gave you leadership skills – if you know how to recognize them. In this session, we'll:

- Recognize challenging experiences as a way to grow and gain leadership skills,
- See yourself as a leader, regardless of title, past experience or position,
- Dissolve mental limits we place on ourselves,
- Recognize leadership skills you've gained as a result of experiences, and
- Identify one action to step into leadership.



THE 14TH ANNUAL FLORIDA YOUTH SUMMIT: THE NEXT LEVEL (PARENT ONLY SESSION)

Friday, 5:00pm- 6:00pm
Legacy South 1

The gang is back! Last year we were not able to come together for the Annual Youth Summit, and things looked a lot different. We got through by conducting the event in a virtual space, but now we are back in person!

Just like in Jumanji, the only way to have a successful Annual Youth Summit, and for young people with disabilities to thrive, is to all work together! Young people must brave parts of the unknown service delivery system, to succeed in navigating the challenges, pitfalls, and problems they face on their path to independence.

The first step on that road is finding their way through the Annual Youth Summit! Here at the Summit, they will go on the adventure of shared learning and networking and learn that their own personal Jumanji journey can be fun. Attendees will discover that the journey is not just about survival, but thriving with the knowledge, support, and friendship of our fellow travelers!

Once they get through the “game” here at the Summit, they will be ready to engage in the game on the next level, managing opportunities and resources to find their way to an independent life. They will be ready to make their own decisions and plot their own course, instead of being stuck in the disability service Jumanji!

We really believe that The 14th Annual Florida Youth Summit is a game that the youth we’ve brought together will love playing. Ask them about their experiences, and it may make you gasp, wonder, and laugh hysterically. No matter what this year’s Summit has in store for your youth attendee, their experience here is sure to help them find their way in the adult world!

Lori Fahey
President/CEO
The Family Café, Inc.
820 East Park Avenue, Suite F-100
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 224-4670
lfahey@familycafe.net



FRIDAY

**A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES!
JUMANJI: THE NEXT LEVEL**

Friday, 7:30pm – 9:30pm Legacy North



MORNING WELCOME

Saturday, 9:30am – 10:30am
Legacy North

ADVOCATES: THE NEXT LEVEL

Lacy Dicharry
Saturday, 10:30am – 11:30am
Legacy North

Just like the jungle, life gives us challenges and obstacles that we sometimes think we can't get through. Just like Spenser and his friends leveling up their skills in Jumanji: The Next Level, we need to learn how to keep growing and use our experience for positive change for ourselves and others. We can make a difference BECAUSE of, not in spite of, what we have been through. In this session, you will learn how to:

- Understand the first three phases of becoming a youth advocate:
Earning your Story, Sharing your Story, Making a Difference with others
- Learn how to reflect on your story and work toward healing
- Discover how to share your story in a way that helps others
- Realize how to make large scale change in your life and in the lives of others

LUNCH

Saturday,
11:30am – 12:45pm
Salon 2



EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

Saturday, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

ADVOCACY: WHAT IT MEANS AND WHY IT MATTERS

Legacy South 1

This interactive presentation will discuss ways to be an effective activist as well as address common misconceptions about the legislative process. As a staff member and professional lobbyist for over 20 years, Joe will give us a behind the scenes look at how the process really works and how youth can harness the power they already have to be change makers in their communities. Far too many legislators and elected officials simply do not have sufficient experience or knowledge on issues related to disabilities. The truth is that our stories are important, and we do not need to be subject matter experts on complicated policy matters to make a difference. We will further discuss the importance of voting and participating in our local, state, and federal elections.

Joe McCann
Policy Manager
The Family Café, Inc.
820 East Park Avenue, Suite F-100
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 224-4670
jmccann@familycafe.net

I CAN, I WILL, I MUST!

Legacy South 2

These words have become a favorite mantra for those who must face and overcome many challenges in their life, including their education, employment, and path to independence. To meet those challenges, you will need to know what resources and supports are available to help you. Come and learn how to become a strong self-advocate and to access services, resources, and information to help make your dreams become a reality.

Paula Roberts
External Affairs Coordinator
Disability Rights Florida
850-488-9071 ext 9722
paular@disabilityrightsflorida.org

TICKET TO WORK, STRATEGICALLY PREPARING FOR EMPLOYMENT

Legacy South 3

As an approved Employment Network (EN) with the Social Security Administration, CareerSource Flagler Volusia (CSFV) is a proud partner of Ticket to Work, a program designed to assist career seekers with disabilities to increase their income and self-sufficiency. Through the support of career consultants and community partnerships with local businesses, colleges, and training programs, CSFV assists career seekers in developing their customized plans to achieve individual employment goals. Attendees will gain an understanding of how the CareerSource network can help our customers navigate their way through the employment process and into the future.

Allysoun Gallup, B.L.S., CWDP, JCTC, JCDC
Disability Navigator/ Career Service Advocate
CareerSource Flagler Volusia
20 Airport Road Suite E
Palm Coast, FL 32164
386-313-5601
allysougallup@careersourcefv.com

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

Saturday, 2:15 pm – 3:15 pm

HIGH SCHOOL HIGH TECH AND YOUNG PROFESSIONAL'S NETWORK

Legacy South 1

The Able Trust is an organization that aims to be a key leader in providing opportunities for successful employment for Floridians with disabilities. The Able Trust operates two programs, High School High Tech and Young Professional's Network, that you may find interesting. High School High Tech is a career and college exploration program for high school students with disabilities. The Young Professional's Network supports the professional growth of people with disabilities as they enter and progress in Florida's workforce.

Joseph D'Souza
State Director, High School High Tech
The Able Trust
joseph@abletrust.org



**THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

Legacy South 2

Adults and children with disabilities, some as young as five years old, are discriminated against and mistreated every day in the criminal justice system. They experience higher arrest rates, higher conviction rates, stiffer penalties, and a lack of accommodations in jails. This problem is one of truly epidemic proportions, but it is rarely covered by the media. This seminar will give a brief overview on the current situation facing people with disabilities in the criminal justice system as well as current and proposed solutions to the issue.

Andrew Sagona
Andrewsagona.advocate@gmail.com

ENDING THE SILENCE

Legacy South 3

This free mental health, suicide prevention and anti-stigma program is presented by a trained two-person team, one of whom is a young adult living in recovery with a mental illness. This presentation will include warning signs of mental health conditions, information on how to help yourself or a friend, treatment options, and how to speak with those around you about mental health. It emphasizes that mental illness is treatable, and recovery is possible.

Erin Webb
Director of Programs
NAMI Greater Orlando
The National Alliance on Mental Illness
300 Crown Oak Centre Drive
Longwood, FL 32750
407.253.1900
namigo.org

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

Saturday, 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

A.T. IS WHERE IT IS AT!

Legacy South 1

Many who are unfamiliar with the term AT may not know that it stands for Assistive Technology. But even when one learns what AT stands for it may still be a mystery what Assistive Technology is and how it can benefit them. My name is Jesse Hansen. As the AT Specialist at the Family Café I have a passion for all technology, especially Assistive Technology. Join me as we discuss what Assistive Technology is and how it enables individuals to become less reliant on others while gaining their own independence. We will discover what accessibility options are available and built into everyday devices you may already own such as Smart Phones, Tablets, Computers and Home Automation Devices.



Jesse Hansen
AT Specialist
FAAST Northwest Regional Demonstration Center
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jhansen@familycafe.net

PLAY IT SAFE WITH YOUR WORDS AND THOUGHTS—THINK BEFORE YOU POST

Legacy South 2

In a world of social media, your words can end up getting you in trouble. Every day we see celebrities posting their thoughts and emotions, so why is it different for us? Everyone needs someone to vent to, but what happens when your post is misunderstood or taken out of context? A quick reaction can have lasting impact on your future. This presentation will cover some of the possible legal consequences to posting your innermost thoughts, from threat assessments resulting in Baker Act to arrests. Find out how your thoughts today can complicate your future options for education and employment.

Ann Siegel
Disability Rights Florida
2473 Care Drive, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(800) 342-0823
www.DisabilityRightsFlorida.org

FYC: THE NEXT LEVEL

Legacy South 3

The Florida Youth Council has done many things over the years, from writing a book to getting a law passed, just to name a couple of things. Interested in learning about all the projects the FYC has done over the years and their continued efforts now in the present, including how to become a member? Come join our alumni members of the Council as they share info on all of these things and more in this interactive session. They might be on the verge of being "just over youth" but see why their love of the FYC has kept them around a little longer in order to show our new younger members the way and keep the FYC strong all while striving to take the council to the next level!

Niki Germain
Youth Advisor
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Josue Tapia
Derek Carraway
Christina Waldron
Shevie Barnes

SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE

6:30 PM – 9:30 PM
LEGENDS 2&3

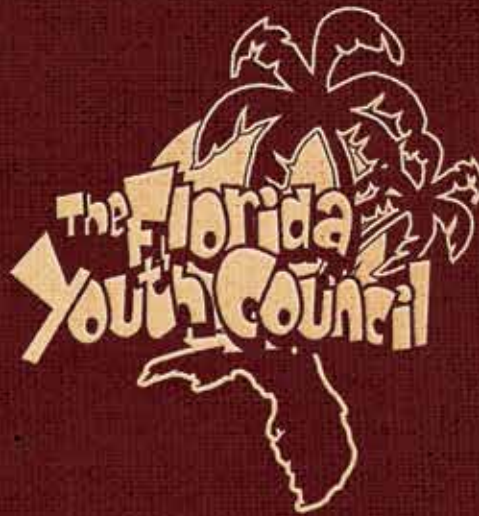
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FLORIDA ALLIANCE FOR ASSISTIVE SERVICES
AND TECHNOLOGY (FAAST)

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
BUREAU OF EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION



THE FLORIDA YOUTH COUNCIL IS A PROGRAM OF THE FAMILY CAFE

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