

THE 19TH ANNUAL YOUTH SUMMIT

**A CONFERENCE FOR YOUTH AND
EMERGING LEADERS WITH DISABILITIES**



JULY 31 - AUGUST 1, 2026

WELCOME



THE 19TH ANNUAL YOUTH SUMMIT PRESENTED BY THE FLORIDA YOUTH COUNCIL (FYC) AND THE FAMILY CAFÉ IS FINALLY HERE! THE 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 promoting leadership and encouraging their peers to succeed in life. The Annual Youth Summit 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 The 1st Annual Youth Summit in 2008, The FYC has hosted more than 4,000 youth and emerging leaders from across the state of Florida at The Annual Youth Summit. Every summer, they come together with their peers to learn, network, and expand their leadership skills. The Annual Youth Summit has exposed attendees to more than 180 presentations that have helped prepare them for various aspects of adulthood, touching on a range of topics, including making it on your own, adopting a healthy, active lifestyle, and finding community as an adult. The Annual Youth Summit has 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 connections that will last a lifetime.

The Florida Youth Council has once again come together to create another terrific event in The 19th Annual Youth Summit, taking their inspiration from the movie *K-Pop Demon Hunters*. Just like Rumi and Jinu, we need to figure out who we really are so we can sing out loud to our full potential!

Again, welcome to The 19th Annual Youth Summit! We're sure you will have fun and enjoy everything we have planned.

If there's anything we can do to help you get more out of the Summit, please let us know!

Yours,
The Florida Youth Council



LEADERSHIP TEAM

Shevie Barnes, Youth Advisor
JJ Humphrey, Social Media Manager
& Lead Motivator
Anthony LaCava, Technology Lead
Josue Tapia, Outreach Specialist

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jakel "Kel" Baker
Nigel Diaz
Zeta Gil
Leah Gorman
James Kuhlman

Sydney Lanier

Vanessa Muniz-Pellicer
Michelle "Chelle" Sandiford
Miles Stewart
Lilibeth Carrion Vega
Serena Wetmore

ALUMNI MEMBERS

Issac Byer
Derek Carraway
Morgan Griffin
Carly Will
Christina Waldron

WELCOME SESSION

FRIDAY • JULY 31ST
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM
LEGACY NORTH



OPENING KEYNOTE

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM
LEGACY NORTH

“THE ANXIOUS GENERATION”: IS THAT EVEN A THING?

DO YOU THINK THERE IS A “YOUTH ANXIETY EPIDEMIC”?
IF SO, WHAT ARE ITS CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS?



Elizabeth A. Wheeler

Dr. Elizabeth Wheeler (Betsy) invites you to chat about youth anxiety today and what comics and *K-Pop Demon Hunters* can teach us about dealing with anxiety. We'll mix conversation in with improv games, calming moments, and a dance party. Stimming, ASL, Spanish speakers, and Augmentative and Alternative Communication welcome.

Betsy (age 67) and Harper Bryant Shin (24) are writing the graphic novel for kids *Don't Just Tell Me To Breathe: Kids' and Teens' Anxiety Stories*. Betsy shares what they're learning from storytellers ages 11-18 across the United States and looks forward to hearing your thoughts. Betsy, a retired University of Oregon Disability Studies professor, researches the lives of youth and families with disabilities, creates inclusive theater, and loves making art with other disabled and neurodivergent people.



Harper Bryant Shin



CHILL & LOVE

FRIDAY

HOW K-POP MUSIC AND THE YOUTH SUMMIT ARE SPINNING THE SAME TRACK

(PARENT/CAREGIVER-ONLY SESSION)

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

LEGACY SOUTH 3



If your teen or young adult has been talking about The Youth Summit, you might be wondering what it's all about. Think of it less like a dry, classroom space and more like a high-energy K-Pop movement: vibrant, deeply collaborative, and entirely centered around giving young people the "stage."

Designed specifically for those emerging leaders with disabilities (ages 15–30), The 19th Annual Youth Summit is made to provide a unique space for growth, independence, and connection.

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

- ◆ **Entirely Youth-Led:** Unlike traditional adult-driven events, this Summit is strictly "by youth, for youth." Attendees call the shots, lead the sessions, and set their own agendas, fostering real-world autonomy and confidence.
- ◆ **A Built-In Community:** Much like a K-Pop "fandom," The Youth Summit serves as a powerful network. It brings together young people from all walks of life to share lived experiences, break out of isolation, and build lasting, supportive peer-mentoring relationships.
- ◆ **Skill-Building & Collaboration:** Attendees don't just sit and listen—they work in harmony. The event focuses on high-level coordination, teaching youth how to collaborate, tackle major life topics, and effectively amplify their voices through self-advocacy.
- ◆ **Breaking Barriers:** The 19th Annual Youth Summit is an inclusive, accessible environment designed to smash stereotypes. It helps young people realize that they are the experts on their own lives, empowering them to step confidently into the spotlight.
- ◆ **High-Energy Celebration:** It's not all work! The Youth Summit balances intense learning and advocacy training with serious fun, wrapping up the weekend with a massive, high-energy celebratory dance party where everyone can let loose and shine.

Here's the bottom line: The 19th Annual Youth Summit gives young people with disabilities the tools, the space, and the community to become a loud, coordinated, and impossible-to-ignore force for positive change in their own lives and communities. Join this parent/caregiver-only session to talk about how we can support the next generation of leaders!

Lori Fahey
President and CEO
The Family Café
lfahey@familycafe.net



A Night at the Movies!

Friday • 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm • Legacy North



KPOP DEMON HUNTERS

WELCOME SESSION

SATURDAY • AUGUST 1ST
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM
LEGACY NORTH



SATURDAY KEYNOTE

TELL YOUR STORY THROUGH COMICS AND IMPROV THEATER

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM
LEGACY NORTH



Elizabeth A. Wheeler

Storytelling and comics open spaces of artistic freedom and community. Join a relaxed storytelling circle, then you have a choice between art forms: turn your stories into comics, or act them out through improv Playback Theater. Stimming, ASL, Spanish speakers, and Augmentative and Alternative Communication welcome.

Tell/draw a story about anything you like, but suggestions include:

- What's something you're proud of?
- What's magic to you? What parts of your background give you strength?
- What do you worry about?
- What do you wish everyone understood about young people's mental health?

LUNCH

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM
SALON 2

Hosted by Betsy Wheeler, a professor, comics writer, and inclusive theater director who loves making art with other disabled and neurodivergent people.

Dr. Elizabeth Wheeler is a retired University of Oregon professor of Disability Studies, Comics, and English and author of HandiLand: The Crippest Place on Earth, and artistic director of Perfect Circle Theater who loves making art and community with other disabled and neurodivergent people. With Harper Bryant Shin, she is co-creating a graphic novel for kids called Don't Just Tell Me To Breathe: Kids' And Teens' Anxiety Stories, based on interviews with teens and tweens across the United States.



Harper Bryant Shin



SATURDAY SESSIONS

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

EXPRESSING YOURSELF THROUGH MOVEMENT: EXPLORING SELF-EXPRESSION THROUGH K-POP DANCING

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

LEGACY SOUTH 1

Move like Mira, jam like Jinu, and roll like Rumi in this interactive K-Pop dance session! Dance can look and feel really cool, but it can also be a great way to express yourself and your emotions. Join this session to explore dance as a method of self-expression and learn K-Pop choreography that conveys different feelings and themes!

Sydney Dotson-Galbán
Marketing Manager
Bee & Blume
sydneydg@beeandblume.com

THE DISCO ISN'T OVER (AND OUR POWER IS IN THIS ROOM)

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

LEGACY SOUTH 2

Assemble your squad to hunt down locked doors, rigid rules, and broken systems. The ultimate demon-hunting manual is disability history itself. From the 1977 504 Sit-In to the 1990 Capitol Crawl, our past features young activists who moved in perfect sync to force change. They built movements from the ground up and demanded “Nothing About Us Without Us.” Whether you have an IEP, a 504 plan, or are a tad “neurospicy,” everyone is welcome in this training ground. We will study the little patterns and bold moves of organizers like Judy Heumann & youth leaders of today to grow our own power in a way that will actually help us and our squad and build our confidence. It is time to learn our history, debut a specific action plan, hunt down the next barriers, and make our voices impossible to ignore.

Carly Will
Disability-Focused Strategy, Curriculum & Development Consultant
CarlyRF@gmail.com



SATURDAY

GET OUT! AND JOIN IN!

12:45 PM - 1:45 PM
LEGACY SOUTH 3

This presentation will encourage youth with disabilities to explore ways they can connect with their community through service, teamwork, leadership, and technology. Drawing from personal experience as an Eagle Scout, a participant in FIRST Robotics, and involvement with Makers Making Change, among others, the presentation will show some unique ways to gain deep community, exciting experiences, and leadership opportunities.

The focus will be on finding spaces where each person can belong, contribute, and grow. Topics will include navigating programs like Scouts with a disability, advocating for accommodations, discovering strengths through robotics and STEAM, and using maker skills to create practical solutions that improve accessibility, as well as other inclusive community opportunities. Participants will be encouraged to think about what they enjoy, what support they may need, and how they can take the first step toward joining or building a community where they feel included and can make a difference.



Lisa Curley
Gracious Youth
lisa@graciousyouth.org

Connor Curley
Gracious Youth
connor@graciousyouth.org

SATURDAY SESSIONS

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

BECOME THE HERO: ADAPTIVE ACTION SCENES INSPIRED BY K-POP DEMON HUNTERS

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

LEGACY SOUTH 1



What makes a hero isn't superpowers—it's confidence, courage, and the willingness to protect yourself and others. Inspired by the action and teamwork of this year's *K-Pop Demon Hunters* theme, this interactive workshop invites participants to learn exciting, adaptable fight scenes designed for individuals of all abilities.

Using authentic Taekwon-Do principles and adaptive self-defense techniques, participants will work together to safely perform choreographed action sequences that can be modified for standing, seated, and mixed-ability participants. Along the way, they'll develop confidence, coordination, communication, and teamwork while discovering that everyone can be the hero of their own story. No prior martial arts experience is necessary.

Master G.
Founder & Executive Director
A Charity Empowered to Save Souls (ACETSS)
MasterG@ACETSS.org



K-pop



SATURDAY

NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT OUR VOICES: A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO PODCASTING FOR THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
LEGACY SOUTH 2

Disabled voices are still underrepresented in podcasting, even though audio storytelling can be an accessible way to share lived experience. In this beginner-friendly session, people with disabilities, family members, and allies will learn how to start recording stories and interviews using simple tools they may already have, like a smartphone. We will cover basic setup, planning a short episode, recording tips for clearer sound, and safer sharing choices. Participants will leave with a step-by-step starter checklist, sample questions for interviews, and a list of free or low-cost tools.

Join Keith Casebonne and Jodi Beckstine, hosts of the bi-weekly interview podcast *Disability Deep Dive*, which explores issues that matter to disabled people, including accessibility, identity, discrimination, rights protections, and voting. Learn how to put together a simple setup that works with a phone or basic microphone, how to plan a 5-10-minute episode or interview, tips for clearer audio (room choice, distance, volume), how to manage consent, privacy, and safer sharing choices, and what goes into a basic workflow for editing and publishing. You'll leave with a step-by-step starter checklist (printable), sample interview questions and an episode outline template, a list of free or low-cost tools (recording, editing, hosting), and some quick troubleshooting tips for common audio problems.

Keith Casebonne
Communications and Database Manager
Disability Rights Florida
KeithC@disabilityrightsflorida.org

Jodi Beckstine
Social Media and Content Specialist
Disability Rights Florida
JodiB@disabilityrightsflorida.org

The background of the entire page is a vibrant, out-of-focus photograph of a concert crowd. In the foreground, several young people are visible, mostly of Asian descent, looking upwards with expressions of awe and excitement. Their hands are raised in the air, some with fingers spread. The scene is illuminated by bright, colorful stage lights in shades of blue, purple, and pink, creating a bokeh effect with soft, glowing circles of light. The overall atmosphere is one of a high-energy, fun event.

SATURDAY

DESTINY UNLOCKED: WHICH K-POP DEMON HUNTER ARE YOU?

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
LEGACY SOUTH 3

Think you have what it takes to protect the world while dazzling fans on stage? Step into the spotlight and discover which K-Pop Demon Hunter matches your unique personality! Inspired by the hit animated film *K-Pop Demon Hunters*, this interactive experience invites participants to complete fun challenges, answer personality questions, and uncover whether they're a fearless leader, brilliant strategist, creative dreamer, loyal teammate, or unstoppable protector. Along the way, you'll explore how every person's unique strengths—including different abilities, talents, and perspectives—make a team stronger. Get ready for music, laughter, teamwork, and a little bit of demon-hunting magic as you embrace the hero within!

Shevie Barnes
Youth Advisor
Florida Youth Council
shevie@floridayouthcouncil.org

SATURDAY SESSIONS

3:15 PM – 4:15 PM

FORGE YOUR LEGENDARY ARTIFACT: THE 3D HUNTER LAB

3:15 PM – 4:15 PM
LEGACY SOUTH 1

Every great hero needs legendary gear! Step into the 3D Hunter Lab, where imagination transforms into powerful creations. Just like crafting enchanted equipment for an epic adventure, you'll discover how 3D printing turns digital designs into real, touchable objects by building them layer by layer.

Explore how this incredible technology creates custom gaming accessories, adaptive tools, prosthetic hands, fidget devices, and other inventions that help people unlock their unique abilities. Whether you're designing something fun or creating equipment that makes everyday life easier, you'll learn how innovation, creativity, and accessibility can help everyone discover their own inner hero.

Erik Pitsenbarger
Creative Customs 3D Printing
Erikjp22@gmail.com

Mandy Pitsenbarger
Creative Customs 3D Printing



SATURDAY

HOW I USE K-POP DEMON HUNTERS TO PROMOTE DISABILITY AWARENESS ... AND HOW YOU CAN TOO!

3:15 PM - 4:15 PM
LEGACY SOUTH 2

K-Pop Demon Hunters is an amazing animated film with well-written songs and a catchy storyline. It also features characters with experiences that are similar to the real-life experiences of people with disabilities. Listen to a self-advocate with a hidden disability describe how he uses *K-Pop Demon Hunters* to promote disability awareness ... and how you can too!

James Williams
Glenbrook North High School Booster Club
jmw820@comcast.net



SATURDAY

YOUR FYC ORIGIN STORY

3:15 PM – 4:15 PM
LEGACY SOUTH 3

Step into the world of *K-Pop Demon Hunters* and discover what it's like to be a member of The Florida Youth Council! Complete fun team missions, meet current FYC members, and learn how leadership, advocacy, and teamwork help defeat real-world barriers faced by youth with disabilities. Your FYC adventure starts here!

The Florida Youth Council



SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE

6:00PM - 8:00PM • SALON 2



SEE YOU AT
**THE 20TH ANNUAL
YOUTH
SUMMIT**
AUGUST 6-7, 2027



THE FLORIDA YOUTH COUNCIL IS
A PROGRAM OF THE FAMILY CAFÉ



**The
Family
Café**

713 E Park Ave.
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(888) 309-CAFÉ (2233)
FloridaYouthCouncil.org
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