

# Exploration...

## DISCOVERING YOUR OWN MAP



THE 7TH ANNUAL YOUTH SUMMIT  
AUGUST 1-2, 2014

THE FLORIDA HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA



# Welcome!

Greetings youth and emerging leaders! The Florida Youth Council (FYC) is excited to welcome you to The 7th Annual Youth Summit, which is presented by The FYC and The Family Café!!!

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. The FYC is focused on encouraging leadership and assisting their peers to succeed in life.

Since 2008, the year of The 1st Annual Youth Summit, The FYC has hosted more than 1,000 youth and emerging leaders from across the state of Florida at The Annual Youth Summit. They have come together with their peers on the first weekend of August to learn, network, and expand their leadership skills. The Annual Youth Summit has exposed attendees to more than 50 presentations that helped prepare them for various aspects of adulthood, including making it on their own, living a healthy, active life and participating in our democracy by voting. The Annual Youth Summit also been fortunate to host a series of excellent keynote presenters who have made the participants laugh, cry, and most importantly, learn to be a better person. 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.

With 6 years of success in mind, The Florida Youth Council has come together to create another terrific event in The 7th Annual Youth Summit. Every single detail has been looked over and evaluated to ensure that the best possible event is presented to all the participants. The presenters have been chosen for their experience in areas that are of significance to youth with disabilities. The

keynote was selected to both entertain and educate the audience. All the attention to detail has culminated with an event that will prove to be the very best Annual Youth Summit to date.

The 7th Annual Youth Summit theme is "Exploration: Developing Your Own Map." The Florida Youth Council believes everyone is on a journey of discovery. That journey can be difficult for everyone, especially those with disabilities; however, we also believe that with a little exploration, everyone can discover their very own map that will allow them to enjoy and thrive on their journey. The FYC hopes that the keynote and sessions throughout The Summit will help participants to begin the process of discovering their own map.

The Council is extremely confident that everyone will have fun and enjoy all of the activities planned 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!

Yours,  
The Florida Youth Council

Alex Brown, Youth Advisor  
Megan Atkinson  
Derek Carraway  
Nick Grabowski  
Christopher Regan  
Iris Roberts  
Josue Tapia Ortiz  
Christina Waldron  
Sarah York





FRIDAY, AUGUST 1  
Welcome and  
Opening Keynote

## Release your Inner Advocate The Time is Now

**3:30-5:30**

**Legacy North**



What does it mean to be an advocate? How much experience do you need? What will you give up? What will you gain? Join Scott Bryant-Comstock in a conversation about his own journey to advocacy, and why advocacy is so important today for you, your community and the nation. The beauty of releasing your inner advocate is that you define what advocacy is and how it takes shape based on the strength within that you may not even know you have.

Advocacy comes in all shapes and sizes – from quiet to loud, from behind the scenes to the center of the stage. The key is understanding that there is not just one type of advocacy, and that whatever approach you take is just as effective and important as any other. Scott will discuss lessons he's learned, more than a few mistakes, and the tremendous rewards of leading an advocate's life. Bottom line? Now, more than ever, our country needs passionate people (like you!) to release an inner advocate and help shape a better community service delivery system for those who follow in their footsteps.

Scott Bryant-Comstock  
Children's Mental Health Network, Inc.  
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# Team Building

5:30-6:30

## Legacy North and Legacy South

Knowing your own strengths is one thing, but knowing how to use your strengths along with those of other advocates is how large problems get tackled. The FYC wants to help you to improve in this area. In order to achieve this, we have arranged some

team-building exercises that groups will work together to complete. Groups will be identified by tools that explorers have used throughout time, such as maps, compasses and backpacks. As each group engages in their exercise, they will get to know each other a little better, and learn how to use their own skills along with those of others to work as a team!



# MOVIE NIGHT

## The Lego Movie

7:30-9:30

## Legacy North


Emmet Brickowski thought he was just another person going about his business. Then he stumbled into the biggest adventure of his life, and learned to embrace



his unique gift by taking on a battle with his nemesis, Mr. Business. Follow Emmet on his journey of self-discovery and overcoming self-doubt. Will he be able to lead the other master builders to defeat Mr. Business? Or will he fall short in his ultimate adventure? Come and find the answer as we watch **The Lego Movie**.

Come with you hard hats and enter the world of constant building in The Lego Movie!





SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

Morning Welcome

9:30-10:00 Legacy North

## What is VR and How Can it Help Me?

**10:00-11:00**

**Legacy North**

The Department of Education/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation's primary mission is to help people with disabilities find or keep a job. To help customers achieve these career goals, VR provides individualized, customized planning and support, which may include career guidance and counseling, medical or mental health services, education and training, assistive technology, vocational services, or other goods and services needed to eliminate barriers to employment. VR's School to Work Transition program helps students with disabilities train for a job, continue their education, and/or work after leaving high school – we want to assist you on the road to a meaningful career. Please join us for a panel discussion about the VR system, and what we can do for you!

Aleisa McKinley, Director  
Division of Vocation Rehabilitation  
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Gladys "Liz" Sella, Unit Supervisor  
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Debbie Baker, Government Analyst - Ticket to Work Program  
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# Connecting The Clock and The Compass

**Parents Only Session**

**11:00-11:45**

**Legacy South 1**

“What comes first, the compass or the clock?

Before one can truly manage the time,

It is important to know where you are going,

What your priorities and goals are,

In which direction you are headed.

Where you are headed is more important

Than how fast you are going.

Rather than always focusing on what’s urgent,

learn to focus on what is really important.”

— *Author unknown*



As the parent of a young person with a disability, you might feel like you’re always running around, trying to get whatever you need to do today accomplished, without thinking about the long-term. It can be hard to keep your eyes on the big picture when you are caught up in a daily race against the clock. How often do you stop and consider the course toward success and independence you are plotting for the young person in your life? How often do you take your eyes off the clock, and look at your compass?

Please join us for the parent and guardian session at The 7th Annual Youth Summit, so we can talk about our efforts to keep the big picture in mind as we deal with the day-to-day pressures of life. By considering how we can balance the attention we pay to the clock every day with a bit of attention to the compass that guides our journey, we can make sure that we put first things first, and move through the days and hours with confidence and purpose.

Lori Fahey, President/CEO

The Family Café, Inc.

CAFÉ TA Center

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## Map Project

**11:00-11:45**

### **Legacy North**

We all have our own map that we use to navigate our life. It is colored by our past, our present, and our future that is still waiting to be discovered. But what about those people that we meet along the way? We are also a part of the map for each one of them. This includes everyone, from complete strangers at the grocery store, to our parents, whose map was completely changed when we were born. Because we are here together at The 7th Annual Youth Summit, we are also all part of the map of young people who are traveling the path of leadership and advocacy together. This activity will offer a chance to draw the map that represents the journey of everyone at The Summit. Everyone will be given an opportunity to work on a section of a map, and then we will put all of the sections together to form a giant map that will show how we are all a part of each other's maps, supporting each other and moving forward together. All that's required for this activity is your own imagination and creativity!

## Lunch With Your Team

**11:45-12:45**

### **Salon 2**

Enjoy lunch with members of your Youth Summit Group!!!

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1:00-2:00

### Navigating Your Transportation and Mobility Options

**1:00-2:00**

### **Legacy South 1**

Individuals with disabilities, like everyone else, have innate talents and abilities to contribute to their communities and Florida's economy; yet transportation and other barriers can limit their opportunities to compete in the workforce and pursue independence. However, these barriers are not insurmountable – given certain tools and resources, these individuals can achieve their employment



and life goals! John Irvine, from the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, and David Darm, from the Florida Division of Blind Services, will discuss how community resources can help individuals overcome transportation and other barriers to independence as well as support their career and life aspirations.

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John Irvine, Project Manager - Area 6  
Florida Commission for the  
Transportation Disadvantaged  
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## Make a Choice

**1:00-2:00**

### **Legacy South 2**

Life is a long time. Are you ready to live a life of health and wellness? What does this look like and what can you do? This is a motivational talk to empower you—and your choices. If you apply five simple points to your life, you can begin today to make a difference in your life, your parents' and your siblings' lives, your community—or your village. Are you ready to take your life on? Are you ready to make a difference? Join me today. An hour could change your life!

Cathy Silver  
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Lauderdale by the Sea, FL 33308  
cathysilverhealth@gmail.com  
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# How to Get an Interview and Land The Job

**1:00-2:00**

## **Legacy South 3**

Tracy Schmidt, a member of WellCare's Talent Organization team, will be presenting an overview on effective interviewing. This will include topics such as dressing for success, preparation and company research, first impressions and strong communication skills. As part of this overview, Tracy Schmidt will solicit participation from the audience, and invite them to engage in on-stage mock-interviews, which will afford both the participant and observers the opportunity to gain some real-time "do's" and "don'ts" for interviewing.

Tracy Schmidt, VP. President Florida  
WellCare  
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# BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2:15-3:15

## Advocating For Your Future

**2:15-3:15**

## **Legacy South 1**

Self-Advocacy is an important concept in the lives of persons with disabilities. The ability to advocate for yourself plays an important role in the development of your future plans as an emerging adult. This workshop will provide an overview of Self-Advocacy and how you can become a Self-Advocate. Participants will be given tools that will help them plan for the future.

Richard Champman  
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4100 West Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 326  
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(813) 666-4981

# Having a Service Animal: Both a Right and a Responsibility

**2:15-3:15**

## **Legacy South 2**

Service animals assist people with disabilities in their daily lives by helping to foster a life of independence. The right to have a service animal is provided for by law, but that right also comes with many responsibilities. Service animal owners have a responsibility to care for their service animal. They also have a responsibility to engage with the community to ensure that service animals remain welcome for future generations of owners. This session will go over both the rights and responsibilities of service animal ownership, in hopes providing clarity about issues that everyone should keep in mind when considering using a service animal.

Ann Siegel, Managing Attorney Education Team  
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Chris Tejcek, Executive Director  
My Angel With Paws, Inc.  
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(386) 490-4949

# The Challenge of Transition Things to Know About Life After High School

**2:15-3:15**

## **Legacy South 3**

Moving from high school into adulthood can be both challenging and exciting for students and parents. This presentation will go over the major questions about life after high school for students with disabilities. We will discuss important skills and abilities youth can develop that will lead to future success. Attendees will also learn about differences in special education law, self-advocacy, time management and organization, and independent living options.



Leslie R. Walker, Student Services Coordinator  
College Living Experience  
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lwalker@expereincecle.com

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS 3:30-4:30

### Using Hand-Held Assistive Technology to Become More Independent

**3:30-4:30**

**Legacy South 1**

Learning disabilities do not go away with time. However, thanks to assistive technology available through applications on hand-held devices, individuals with learning disabilities are able to build on their strengths and work around specific learning problems. The assistive technology available through hand-held devices can be key to helping all users become more independent throughout life—on the job and in activities for daily living. Join us for a conversation about applications for hand-held devices that can improve organizational and study skills, help with writing, reading, and math difficulties, provide social and behavioral supports, and assist users in managing typical life routines. We will explore the support that is available through twenty different apps, and show you how the right app can make your daily life easier to manage.

Michael J. Daniels, Executive Director  
FAAST  
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# Life With a Disability: Anything is Possible

**3:30-4:30**

**Legacy South 2**

My name is Shavaughn Barnes, and I was born with cerebral palsy. I have always dreamed of public speaking. I want others to understand that just because you have a disability, that doesn't mean that you are your disability. We are not our disability! Please join me for some fun activities in this session as we discover that Anything is Possible!

Shevie Barnes  
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Cape Coral, FL 33914  
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(239) 823-8790

# Exploration Map Your Disaster Preparedness by Discovering Your Own Ways to be Prepared

**3:30-4:30**

**Legacy South 3**

Life is a map of what we do in day-to-day life, but what happens when life throws in a disaster? Are you prepared for what needs to happen for you to continue on your way? Do you have a plan to help you prepare for any upcoming disaster? What does disaster preparedness mean? When do disasters happen most often? How can you survive them and go on with your day-to-day activities? In this session, you will learn answers to these questions and more about being prepared for disasters, either natural or man-made. With the proper education, you can survive disasters, and you will be thankful that you took the time to become disaster-wise.

Linda Carter, Executive Director  
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# DANCE PARTY!

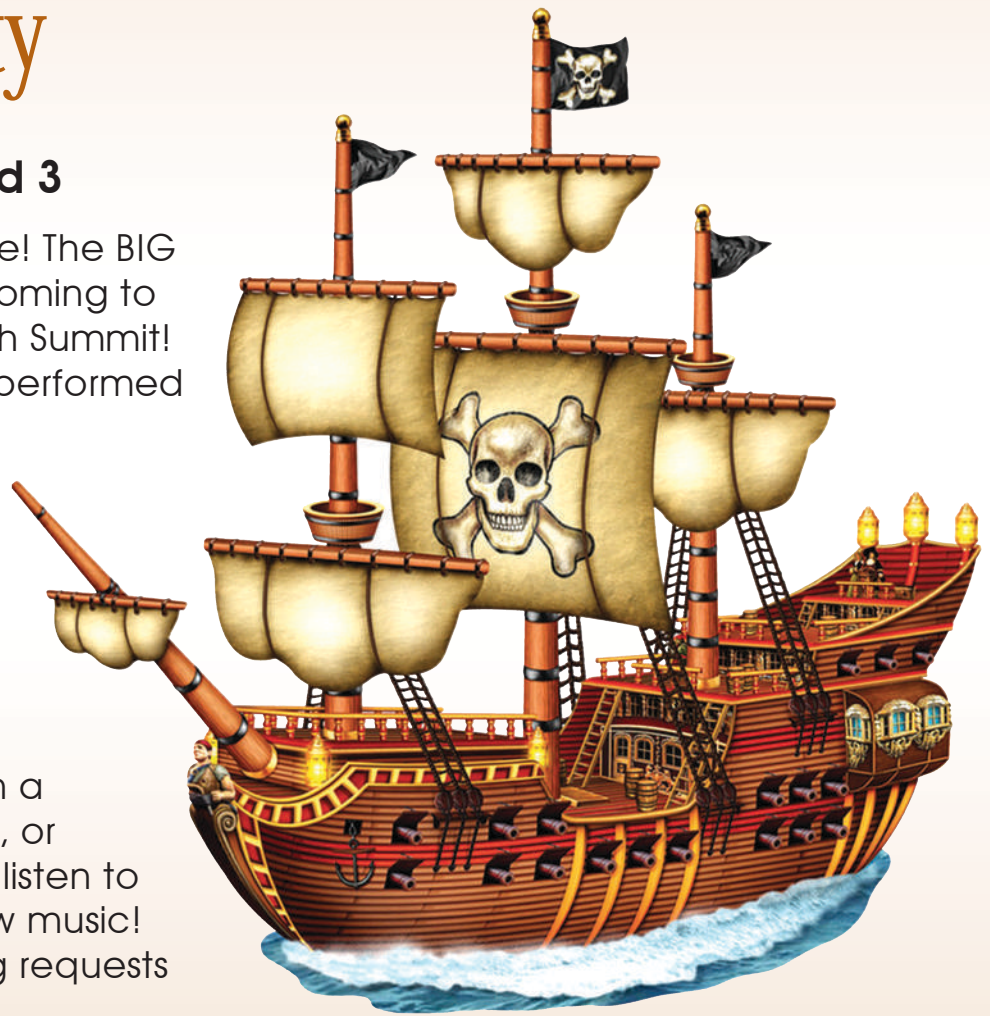


## Dance Party

**6:30-10:00**

**Legends 2 and 3**

It's time to dance! The BIG BIG DJ Show is coming to The Annual Youth Summit! Our artists have performed over 3000 shows at all 3 major Orlando theme parks. We get the crowd singing, dancing and laughing. Do a conga line, learn a new dance step, or just sit back and listen to your favorite new music! We will be taking requests all night long!





*Take  
what you can...*

*Give  
nothing back.*

*—A Pirates Creed*



The Florida Youth Council is a Program of  
The Family Café



**The  
Family  
Café**

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