

# VEICOME

The 16th 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 (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 The 1st Annual Youth Summit in 2008, The FYC has hosted more than 3,500 youth and emerging leaders from across the state of Florida at The Annual Youth Summit. Every August, they come together with their peers to learn, network, and expand their leadership skills. The Annual Youth Summit has exposed attendees to more than 150 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 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 connections that will last a lifetime.

The Florida Youth Council has once again come together to create another terrific event in The 16th Annual Youth Summit, taking their inspiration from the role-playing game Dungeons & Dragons. Every young person with a disability has a role to play, and brings with them something unique to contribute. It's not just about a singular, personal relationship, but the remarkable set of lifelong connections one finds themselves in! The Florida Youth Council wants to help youth fill their roles and build life skills, including creativity, communication, problem-solving, empathy, collaboration, advocacy, friendship, and empowerment! Everyone has a role to play!

The FYC is extremely confident that everyone will have fun and enjoy everything we have planned for The 16th Annual Youth Summit!

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

> Catalina Andonie John Howard Baldino Shevie Barnes Derek Carraway Alexander Gonzalez

Leah Gorman Morgan Griffin JJ Humphrey James Kuhlman Vanessa Muniz-Pellicer Michelle Sandiford Josue Tapia Lilibeth Vega Christina Waldron Serena Wetmore OPENING KEYNOTE 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Legacy North

> FRIDAY - AUGUST 4TH 4:00 PM – 4:30 PM LEGACY NORTH

### Your Imagination is the Playground of Your Potential John Ferrone

When John Ferrone was 10, he found a game in a box in a cupboard. It had a cool picture of a dragon facing off against a lone knight with a sword and shield. Being a kid who loved medieval knights and dragon lore, he was hooked instantly. That game was *Dungeons & Dragons*, the first role playing game of its kind. Little did he know when he first saw it how it would change his life, the lives of his kids, and how he saw the world.

As he came to find out, *Dungeons & Dragons* was more than a game. It was a way to learn about the world that would prepare him to harness his own mental health challenges—which he calls his superpowers—and just as importantly a way to enter an imaginative world where anyone, even his own children, could discover their potential as they faced challenges both make believe and real. You see, two of his children grew up with mental health challenges, and it was in the imaginative world of role playing that they were able to freely explore who they could be, and learn more about their real selves and their potential.

Here at the Annual Youth Summit, John will rely on his 44 years of experience as a "Dungeon Master" to guide attendees on a role-playing journey that will help everyone to understand how to identify their unique gifts, work together, solve problems, and emerge victorious!

This keynote will lay the groundwork for the role-playing workshops and activity the following day where youth will learn about the basics of role playing and the opportunity it creates to explore one's potential through imaginative encounters.

This session will be followed by a Q & A session about the next day's role-playing workshop.

### No Experience Necessary!

(Parent Only Session) 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Legacy South 3

This weekend all hinges on the power of the Annual Youth Summit attendees as they explore the process of cooperation and teamwork, using their full imagination to solve problems like finding a creative way to trap an "orc." But how in the "Hextor" does this translate into working together to make it in the real world? Can a roll of the dice lead to learning in a fantasy role-playing world?

Plans will be made quickly, and just as quickly they may fail. We learn to pivot! We act together for the common good, instead of working in competition. This is what we do!

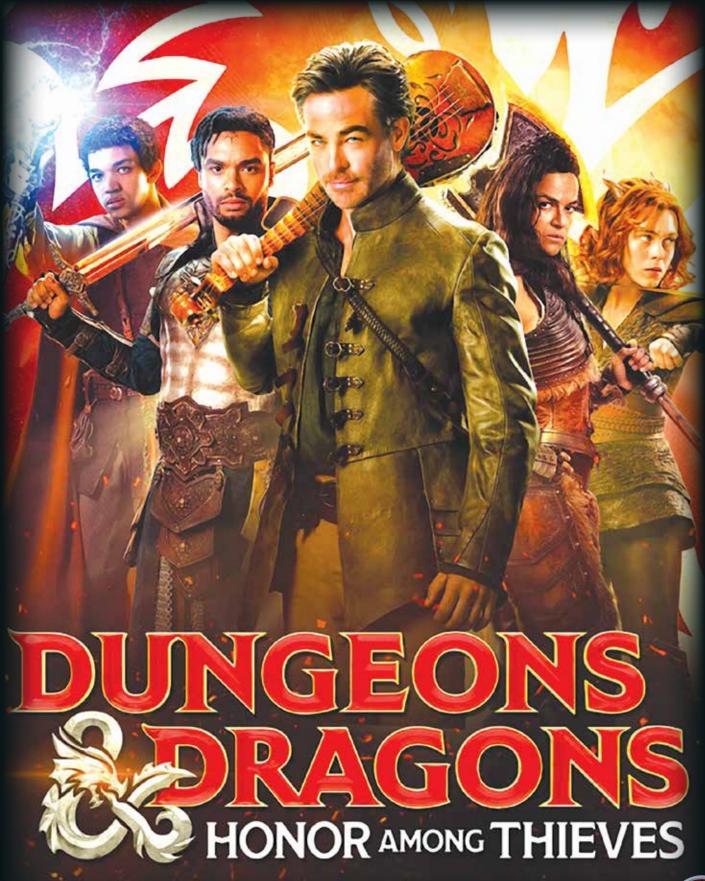
#### Even though it's about collaboration, Youth Summit attendees may not be in total agreement about the game they are in. Just like in the real world, the initial mission rapidly spirals into many detours; the goal is less interesting than the brainstorming sessions that get everyone to the finish together.

Role playing adventures are not just for nerds! There is always room at the table for all types. Let's roll the dice and find the lessons and the humor along the way!

#### Lori Fahey President and CEO

The Family Café 820 East Park Avenue, Suite F-100 Tallahassee, FL 32301 (850) 224-4670 Ifahey@familycafe.net

### A Night at the Movies! Friday • 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm • Legacy North



# WELCOME SESSION

SATURDAY KEYNOTE 10:30 am - 11:30 am Legacy North



John Ferrone

#### Lunch 11:30 am - 12:30 pm Salon 2

### SATURDAY - AUGUST 5TH 10-00 AM - 10-30 AM - LEGACY NORTH Get Ready for a Quest!

URDAY SESSIONS

Most of us have patterns in our life, and those patterns are necessary. They help us get through the day, sometimes. But you can go beyond those patterns when you're role playing! If you can imagine yourself as an Elf Scout, or a Dwarf Warrior, or Human Wizard, then you are on your way to stretching yourself through your imagination—and the things you do through your

character just might affect who you are in real life. In the safety of your imagination is where new possibilities originate for the real you! Make your choice for your character, grab a set of dice, and learn the simple rules of play that will be used in the afternoon role playing activity.

### 12:45 PM - 1:45 PM

#### Reclaim the Staff of Kato (Role Playing Session Part 1) 12:45 pm - 1:45 pm · Legacy North

Bring your character and your dice! You'll join others to form a small group of adventurers and you'll head out on a quest to retrieve a sacred artifact lost ages ago. Together you'll face monsters, riddles, and challenges. As a group of adventurers, you'll need to cooperate and support one another, as well as take risks that you never thought you'd take! What can you think to do to save the group? When will be the right moment

for you to use your special item? Come and role play and see if your group of adventurers can make it through the challenges alive and claim the lost artifact.

John Ferrone Ferrone Associates 1126 Country Club Dr. Hastings, NE 68901 (402) 462-0244 www.ferroneassociates.com

### Paint Your D&D World! 12:45 pm - 1:45 pm · Legacy South 1

Join Arts4All FL to paint your D&D figures! We'll begin our session by painting our figures, and next by exploring a variety of easy techniques to create our own worlds for our figures, then take photos with our phones of them in their worlds.

Arts4All Florida's mission is to provide, support and champion arts education and cultural experiences for and by people with disabilities. We serve the entire state of Florida.

If you are an artist with a disability ages 18+, join our Artist Registry at <u>arts4allflorida.org/artist-registry.html</u>. All art forms are represented, including visual art, performing art, and literary work. Artist Registry members receive announcements for Calls to Art, invitations to exhibit or perform for Arts4All Florida events, and opportunities for informational webinars. The registry is a FREE service. Learn more at arts4allflorida.org.

### Adaptive Cooking Demonstration 12:45 pm - 1:45 pm · Legacy South 2

Arts4All Florida University of South Florida 4202 E. Fowler Ave EDU-105 Tampa, FL 33620 arts4allflorida.org

Cooking is a basic life skill, and our goal is to assist individuals in creating independence through teaching adaptive cooking skills. In this interactive session, individuals of all ages will be able to create their own culinary creation using adaptive cooking techniques. Resources will be provided to successfully adapt basic recipes to create independence for all abilities.

Catrina Sanchez Easterseals Florida 8793 Tamiami Trail East, Unit 111 Naples, FL 34113 (239) 403-0366 csanchez@fl.easterseals.com Shannon Hayes Easterseals Florida 8793 Tamiami Trail East, Unit 111 Naples, FL 34113 (239) 403-0366 shayes@fl.easterseals.com Jenn Siffermann Easterseals Florida 2403 East Henry Avenue Tampa, FL 33610 (813) 868-7191 jsiffermann@fl.easterseals.com

### Improv Puppeteering & Piloting Robots with Personality 12:45 pm - 1:45 pm · Legacy South 3

Join Helpertunity in exploring how role-playing and improvisation are used by Professional Puppeteers and Remote-Control Robotics & Animatronics Operators in their creative careers!

In this workshop, you will have the chance to borrow a Plush Puppet or Toy RC Robot from Helpertunity's lending library for the afternoon. You'll learn how you can give that chosen character precision-movements, an interactive personality, a back-story, and a voice in the world!

Eileen Callejas, MA, MBA, MS IDT, AC, PhD (abd) Founder of Helpertunity, Inc. PO Box 1956 Apopka FL 32704-1956 (407) 234-4768 www.Helpertunity.org Come to this session prepared to work in pairs and small groups to practice your new skills and see how to mingle in a crowd while also handling a friendly sidekick character. Cameras and smartphones are welcome!

In the second half of this session, participants can also discover more about Virtual Puppet Visitation jobs, sending & recording Puppet & RC-Robot Video Messages, and how use scenic-backdrops and green-screen apps for staging Puppet & Robot Story-Scenes and Video-Plays.

### SATURDAY SESSIONS 2-00 PM - 3-00 PM

### Only One Way Out, and Time is Ticking! (Role Playing Session Part 2)

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Legacy North

Bring your character and your dice! You'll join others to form a small group of adventurers and find yourself in the middle of a situation. You will be surrounded by monsters, and you'll have to figure out how to escape. But there is only one way out—the problem is that you don't know where it is, and the ceiling will start collapsing any moment! You must find the exit, all the while trying to stay alive. You'll be challenged to think quickly and come up with creative ideas to help the group. Will you sacrifice yourself for the others? Will you be the one to find the exit?

Come role play and see if your group of adventurers can survive the monster onslaught, and escape with your lives.

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# SATURDAY SESSIONS 3-15 PM - H-15 PM

#### Creative Drama for All · 3:15 pm - 4:15 pm · Legacy North

Central Florida Community Arts (CFCArts) is known nationally for creating arts accessible models for drama, music, creative writing, & fine arts programs. Join the CFCArts Team and members of the UpBeat! Theater Troupe, in an interactive workshop where performers of all ages and abilities will learn some of the techniques of Creative Drama in a safe and welcoming environment. This workshop will focus on four components of creative drama: Body Awareness, Space, Interactions, & Character Building utilizing modified improv games and drama techniques. Come prepared to laugh and learn!

Kaileigh Anne Tayek Central Florida Gommunity Arts 2315 Upper Park Road, Unit 202 Orlando, FL 32814 (419) 304-5753 kaileigh.anne@cfcarts.com

#### William Tayek

Central Florida Community Arts 2315 Upper Park Road, Unit 202 Orlando, FL 32814 (419) 304-5753 william.tayek@cfcarts.com

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How Gaming, Animation, and Anime Improved My Disability Advocacy Skills – And How They Can Help You Too!

3:15 pm - 4:15 pm · Legacy South 1

Various types of games – including the tabletop role-playing game *Dungeons & Dragons* – and fandoms for various forms of anime and animated films, have helped youth with disabilities make and maintain lasting friendships within the social communities that have been built by fans of gaming, animation, and anime.

In addition, many conventions are held throughout Florida and the rest of the United States that host tabletop gaming events and promote the fandoms of anime and animation. These conventions are regularly attended by youth with disabilities who have successfully spoken up for themselves and advocated for their needs while attending such conventions.

Listen to an adult with a disability, who has worked for and spoken up for people with disabilities at conventions that feature gaming, animation, and anime for approximately 10 years, describe how working as a disability advocate at such conventions has helped him become a better advocate for people with disabilities, and how youth with disabilities like YOU can improve your disability advocacy skills within the worlds of gaming, animation, and anime. Information about gaming and anime conventions within Florida will also be provided at this session.



James Williams Wisconsin's Community of Practice on Autism Spectrum Disorders and Developmental Disabilities 1827 Sunnyside Circle Northbrook, IL 60062 (224) 628-6629 Jmw820@comcast.net

FYC: Time to Level-Up! 3:15 pm - 4:15 pm **Legacy South 2** 

The Florida Youth Council has done many great things over the years, from writing a book and publishing several useful guides to getting legislation benefiting individuals with disabilities passed, just to name a few.

Are you interested in learning more about the projects The Florida Youth Council has accomplished over the years? Would you like to learn more about their continued efforts, including how to become a member? Want to know where The Florida Youth Council is headed in the future?

Join us as we share information on all these things and more in this fun, interactive, and entertaining session. Learn how we welcome and teach our new members important life skills and experience the strong love the Council members have for the FYC. Come see how we will continue our mission to help keep the FYC great, all while striving to support transitioning the youth we serve to the next level! We will teach you how to become a member yourself and discuss the many benefits of joining The Florida Youth Council! We look forward to interacting with you and getting to know you better!

The Florida Youth Council c/o The Family Café 820 East Park Ave, Suite F-100 Tallahassee, FL 32301 (850) 224- 4670

**Catalina** Andonie John Howard Baldino Shevie Barnes **Derek Carraway** Alexander Gonzalez

Leah Gorman **Morgan Griffin** JJ Humphrey **James Kuhlman** Vanessa Muniz-Pellicer Serena Wetmore

**Michelle Sandiford** Josue Tapia Lilibeth Vega **Christina Waldron** 





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Every Day in the Criminal Justice System 3:15 pm - 4:15 pm · Legacy South 3

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 appropriate accommodations in jails. This problem is one of truly epic 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 and some ways to safely navigate encounters with law enforcement in your home, car, or community.

Andrew Sagona Disability Advocate (407) 319-0615 andrewsagona.advocate@gmail.com

# SATURDAY NIBHT DAADACE

# 5-00 PM - 8-00 PM - LEGENDS 2 & 3





# See You Next Year! For The 17th Annual YOUTH SUMMIT

A CONFERENCE FOR YOUTH AND EMERGING LEADERS WITH DISABILITIES

### AUGUST 2 - 3, 2024



#### THE FLORIDA YOUTH COUNCIL IS A PROGRAM OF THE FAMILY CAFÉ



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