

**YOUTH FUTURES:
THE BELONGING
YOU SEEK
IS NOT BEHIND YOU.
IT IS AHEAD.**



THE 9TH ANNUAL

A CONFERENCE FOR YOUTH AND EMERGING LEADERS WITH DISABILITIES

YOUTH SUMMIT



AUGUST 5-6, 2016

THE FLORIDA HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER | ORLANDO, FL

WELCOME



Greetings youth and emerging leaders! The Florida Youth Council (FYC) is excited to welcome you to The 9th Annual Youth Summit, which is presented by The FYC and The Family Café!

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 1,400 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 each year to learn, network, and expand their leadership skills. The Annual Youth Summit has exposed attendees to more than 60 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 2016, The Florida Youth Council has once again come together to create another terrific event in The 9th Annual Youth Summit. The young leaders of the FYC have developed a program designed to educate, inform and entertain. The theme of The 9th Annual Youth Summit, which is inspired by *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, is “*Youth FUTURES: The Belonging You Seek is not Behind You. It is Ahead.*” Just like the young heroes of Star Wars, youth that attend the Annual Youth Summit will develop self-reliance and discover their innate abilities as they move courageously to build the future they imagine!

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



Shevie Barnes
Derek Carraway
Megan Germain
Chris Regan

Dakota Smoot
Josue Tapia
Christina Waldron
Serena Wetmore

A large image of Yoda from Star Wars, looking intently with his hand raised towards a bright blue lightning bolt in a dark, stormy sky.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5TH

THE COURAGE TO BE DIFFERENT

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. | Legacy North



I will be speaking on finding the courage to be a leader regardless of your disability and how you can use your disability to inspire and lead others. I will be sharing my personal story of hardships and triumphs and will close by speaking on the importance of planning for your future at a young age and how to achieve the goals you set for yourself. I will leave approximately 45 minutes for questions and autograph signing for all in attendance.

As always I will have a special surprise for the Youth Council donated by Champions Rebuilt.

Dorian Willes

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dorianwilles1@gmail.com



**I KNOW HOW TO
RUN WITHOUT YOU
HOLDING MY HAND!**

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. | Parents Only Session | Legacy South 1

Rey's famous line, "*I know how to run without you holding my hand*" speaks to so much more than the Star Wars saga. It speaks to the youth with disabilities in our lives that are ready to break free and determine their own destinies.

To fans of the saga, Star Wars may be a way of life. To us as parents, our children are our life. Even though we have guided them through childhood, a long time in the future, in a galaxy far, far away, our youth with disabilities will be independent and self-sufficient, living the best life possible. Although this may seem like it will take a few more light years, that future is right around the corner, and there are times when sparks of hope flash before our eyes.

In the past, our youth have lacked authority and leadership because they were marginalized and maybe objectified. We longed for the day that our youth would be stronger and more relatable within the community. That day is today!

Come join together for this Parent Only Session, so we can talk about letting go of our children's hands, so they can run on their own.

Lori Fahey

President/CEO

The Family Café, Inc./CAFÉ TA Center/FAAST Regional Demonstration Center

820 East Park Avenue, Suite F-100

Tallahassee, FL 32301

(850) 224-4670 (voice)

(850) 224-4674 (fax)



A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. | Legacy North

Join us for a journey to a galaxy far, far away as we view *Star Wars: The Force Awakens!*

As Kylo Ren and the sinister First Order rise from the ashes of the Empire, Luke Skywalker is missing when the galaxy needs him most. It's up to two youth leaders, Rey, a desert scavenger, and Finn, a defecting Stormtrooper, to join forces with Han Solo and Chewbacca in a desperate search for the one hope of restoring peace to the galaxy. Feel the Force and see how youth leadership saves the day in *The Force Awakens!*



SATURDAY, AUGUST 6TH

MORNING WELCOME

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | Legacy North

DRAWING THE LINE: ARE YOU REBELLIOUS, SPOILED, AND IMMATURE, OR ARE YOU SPEAKING UP FOR YOURSELF, YOUR DISABILITY, AND YOUR FUTURE?

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | Legacy North



Adolescents and young adults with disabilities often find themselves lacking the ability to acquire the same independence that other individuals take for granted. They also might find themselves fighting for their rights in environments where they often have decisions made for them by authority figures that don't always understand their disability. In high school, adolescents with disabilities often find themselves in the difficult position of having people ask them to take charge of their future and their lives, yet still function in a world where they often don't have much power over their lives, and authority figures often make decisions for them. And some adolescents and young adults with disabilities are not ready to speak up for


themselves without parental support, or become independent at adulthood, and may still desire parental support in adulthood.

At the same time, when individuals with disabilities try to speak up for themselves, they are often perceived by others as acting spoiled or rebellious, especially in adolescence. Fighting for one's needs as a person with disability may be seen as a form of adolescent rebellion, or sign of immaturity. And some self-advocates do indeed find themselves coming across as "spoiled" when they improperly speak up for themselves. Others cannot always make the distinction between what they can and can't fight for, and what they should and shouldn't fight for regarding their disability.

In this presentation, a young adult and self-advocate with autism who travels around the country speaking on disability awareness will discuss the "fine

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line” between self-advocacy and rebellious behavior, and the proper social guidelines that should be followed when people with disabilities speak up for themselves and for each other. He will share his experiences advocating for his fellow students during his high school career, and the guidelines that he and his friends developed to help each other properly advocate for their needs while in high school. He will discuss critical decisions he made throughout his life speaking up for himself. He will also discuss the importance of showing respect towards others with disabilities in the process. Finally, he will discuss how young people with disabilities can learn how to enjoy life with their disability, and how to make a distinction between limitations worth fighting against and limitations worth adapting to, and the importance of making sure that young people learn how to get along with each other and speak up to each other when they are upsetting each other, as well as to other people in the community.

LUNCH

11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. | Legends Ballroom

Enjoy lunch with all of the Youth Summit participants!

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS:

1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

BE A DISASTER SURVIVOR

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Legacy South 1

Accidents, emergencies and disasters happen all the time, and you never know when an incident is about to occur. What’s the best way to deal with that reality? Be prepared for whatever may happen ahead of time! Attend this session to learn about basic disaster preparedness and safety for all types of disasters, whether they are man-made or natural. Get some useful tips on severe and tropical weather safety, how to be ready for an evacuation, what you need to know about sheltering in place, and dealing with man-made disasters. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion.

Keith Kotch

Assistant Manager

Orange County Fire Rescue Department



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Keith.Kotch@ocfl.net

THINK POSITIVE - STRIVE FOR SUCCESS

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Legacy South 2

Disability Rights Florida is here to help. When you think positive, positive things are bound to happen. It will take time, dedication and will power, but in the end it will all be worth it. Do you have educational goals you want to reach, but need accommodations? Are you hoping to get that dream job but don't know if you will have the needed supports? If the answer is YES, let us empower you with the necessary tools to become a stronger self-advocate, learn how to obtain needed services, get information on understanding your rights and secure your rights.

Paula Roberts

External Affairs Coordinator
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(850) 617-6659 (fax)
PaulaR@DisabilityRightsFlorida.org

DEVELOPING AN EFFECTIVE RESUME: TIPS TO LOOK GOOD AND GET ATTENTION

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Legacy South 3

Your resume is the key to standing out and landing the job interview, which is why it's important to make sure it's the best it can be. With a little investment in time and energy, your resume can shine and showcase why you're the best candidate for the job. Learn some insider tips on what to include in your resume and how to avoid some common mistakes.

Jennifer Wester, MHS, CRC

VR Consultant

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

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EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS:

2:15 P.M. - 3:15 P.M.

HOW TO MEET PEOPLE BY "BEING COOL WITH THEM": BUILDING YOUR SOCIAL INTERACTION SKILLS AT WORK AND AT PLAY

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. | Legacy South 1

Do you ever wonder what kind of behavior is appropriate for work and hanging out with your friends? If the answer is yes, then this session is for you! The Florida Youth Council will explore the topic of *consent within the work place* and demonstrate appropriate work behavior that you can also use while hanging with your friends!

Niki Germain

The Florida Youth Council

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FILLING OUT THE DREADED JOB APPLICATION

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. | Legacy South 2

Completing a job application can be challenging. It's hard to know how to answer all of the questions that job applications typically include, and the whole process can be a little scary. But don't worry! With a little preparation, the entire process becomes much easier. Come to this interactive session to get some practice in filling out a job application, with advice from an expert. Attendees will leave with a completed application, and a pocket guide that they can use in their future job search.

Melanie R. Magill, MA

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VR: GET WITH THE PROGRAM

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. | Legacy South 3

Vocational Rehabilitation wants to be the first place that comes to mind when you start thinking about a career. We are here to help you seamlessly transition from school to work and ensure your continued success on the job. Learn the ins and outs of Vocational Rehabilitation and how you can take advantage of the employment opportunities available to you.

Jennifer Wester, MHS, CRC

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EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS:

3:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

MAKING FRIENDS AND STAYING SAFE THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Legacy South 1

In the age of computers and smart phones, many people use social media to stay connected. This is especially true of young people who have grown up surrounded by technology. In this session, we will spend some time discussing how popular social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat work. Then we will talk about how to connect with people, and how to maintain your privacy when interacting with people through social media. Social media is a great way for young people to network and communicate, but it's important to stay safe online! Come find out how!



Jeremy Countryman

Program Director

The CAFÉ TA Center and The Family Café

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THAT'S THE TICKET!!!

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Legacy South 2

Are you considering going to work and wondering how it will affect your disability benefits? Are you ready to start the journey toward work but don't know where to begin? Maybe you're looking for work but need help finding the right job. An expert from Florida Vocational Rehabilitation will discuss the



employment of persons with disabilities and the impact of employment on Social Security benefits, Medicare and Medicaid. You will learn about the Social Security Administration - Ticket to Work Program and other employment support programs as you begin your journey to financial independence.

Debbie Baker

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THE ART OF THE INTERVIEW

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Legacy South 3

You want the job, but are you ready for the interview? What questions should you expect to be asked? What should you wear? What questions should you be ready to ask a prospective employer? This interactive session will give you the confidence to answer the difficult questions employers ask during the interview process. Additionally, learn how to look, act, and interact with potential employers during the interview.

Melanie R. Magill, MA

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The background of the entire page is a composite image. The top half features a sunset sky with a large, bright sun and several TIE fighters flying in formation. The bottom half shows a space scene with the Earth's horizon, a large space station, a smaller spacecraft, and a large planet in the distance.

CLOSING REMARKS

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. | Legacy North

A full-page background image featuring a white Stormtrooper from Star Wars. The trooper is in a dynamic, dance-like pose, with its right arm raised and bent, and its left arm extended forward. It is wearing its iconic white armor with black details and a gold utility belt. The background is dark with a strong red light source on the left, creating a silhouette effect on the trooper. In the upper right, a large, glowing disco ball reflects light in a pattern of red and orange dots. The overall mood is festive and celebratory.

TIME TO PARTY!

6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. | Legends 2 & 3

It's time to get down and celebrate youth empowerment at the Saturday Night Dance Party! Join us for an evening of fun, dancing and togetherness as we rock out to all of the latest dance hits. There will be a chance to win a door prize, too! Make sure to be there for all of the action!



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



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MENU OF SERVICES**

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