



# THE AYLUS TIMES

Alliance of Youth Leaders in the United States

No. 1

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The AYLUS Times is back! Discover inspiring stories, meaningful community impact, branch highlights, and innovative youth-led initiatives from AYLUS branches nationwide.

Congratulations to the Great Neck, San Diego, Frisco & Plano, Murrieta, Pearland, Morrisville, West Essex, Roslyn, Syosset, and Newtown branches for winning Branch of the Month for August 2025. Congratulations to the Lake Washington, McLean, and North Hollywood branches for winning New Branch of the Month for August 2025.

September's monthly themed challenge is "Arts and Creativity". We invite branches to incorporate this theme into their events.



## Monthly Themed Challenge



### COMMUNITY SAFETY

Community safety isn't just about rules—it's about creating spaces where people can live, learn, and grow without fear. In August 2025, AYLUS branches across the country brought this vision to life through diverse service projects.



The Lake Washington branch advanced community wellbeing through its Community Cleanup Project, organizing neighborhood cleanups in shared spaces. Bellaire members fostered environmental responsibility by cleaning trails at a neighborhood park. The San Diego and Morris branches addressed food and clothing insecurity by volunteering at food banks and coordinating clothing drives. In addition, Bellaire members repaired bicycles for low-income families, providing both a reliable form of transportation and a renewed sense of independence. From revitalizing public spaces to alleviating insecurity, these initiatives showcase how AYLUS strengthens the communities it serves. Together, we continue to protect, support, and uplift those around us.



Written by: Sarah Xue  
Revised by: Megan Wang

## SERVING THROUGH SPORTS



Approximately one in five children or adolescents in the United States struggles with obesity. By encouraging kids to play sports, AYLUS members nationwide aimed to boost physical activity and promote lifelong healthy habits. In West Essex, members partnered with the Love Serving Autism tennis program, introducing children with special needs to beginner-friendly tennis. Taking on the role of counselors for a Youth Center Camp in Connecticut, AYLUS Cheshire organized sports games like kickball to keep campers active and engaged. Out west, the San Diego branch hosted a junior tennis clinic for kids, while in Great Neck, volunteers inspired local youth to get moving through soccer games at the community park. By creating opportunities for youth to stay active, AYLUS members promote not only fitness but also confidence, teamwork, and fun. Together, we continue to inspire the next generation to grow strong, healthy, and empowered through sports.

Written by: Eason Wang  
Revised by: Megan Wang

## Learning Never Takes a Vacation



This summer, AYLUS branches nationwide transformed classrooms, libraries, and community centers into hubs of creativity, inclusion, and discovery. From robotics and writing to chess and art, volunteers provided free lessons that empowered youth across the country. In Pearland, volunteers engaged in hands-on STEM activities, constructing robotic gear trains. Others explored strategy and sportsmanship in the Pearland Chess Class, while a community art session embraced creativity and self-expression.

In Houston, volunteers partnered with the Light and Salt Association to support a special education summer school, adapting lessons in grammar, origami, and drama to meet the needs of students with disabilities. Meanwhile, the Morrisville branch launched the "Inkwell Writing Workshop," guiding young writers through weekly lessons in poetry and fiction. By leading educational programs, AYLUS members continue to foster lifelong learning and ensure knowledge remains accessible to all. Together, we are paving the path towards a future where youth inspires youth.



Written by: Audrey Kuo  
Revised by: Megan Wang

**EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES,  
ONE BOOK AT A TIME**

Although literature offers countless cognitive and emotional benefits, studies show that people today spend less time reading than in the past. In response to this trend, AYLUS branches dedicated efforts to enhancing and promoting literacy for people of all ages. Members from the Pearland, San Diego, and Newtown branches volunteered at local libraries and bookstores, organizing bookshelves and assisting customers with book selections.

Furthermore, the Morris Branch partnered with The Connection—a women-led nonprofit—to support the Moms Helping Moms: Books for Babies initiative. Volunteers collected and donated over 100 children’s books, aiming to inspire a lifelong interest in reading among youth.

Meanwhile, AYLUS Pearland and Fullerton hosted online tutoring sessions, helping students strengthen their English vocabulary and language skills. Through this wide range of efforts, AYLUS is committed to making literacy accessible and enjoyable for communities nationwide.



*Written by: Angie Feng  
Revised by: Henry Tang*

**Branch Spotlight: San Diego**



The AYLUS San Diego branch, a time-honored branch with a decade-long history, stands as a testament to community growth and learning. Over the years, its members have exhibited compassion for their community and demonstrated strong leadership and initiative through a diverse array of events and programs.

One of AYLUS San Diego’s key focuses is education. Whether it’s hosting one-on-one tutoring sessions for those in need or providing English language assistance to elderly Chinese residents, San Diego members endeavor to make education accessible for all. And with this focus comes a lasting tradition: since 2022, the branch has organized fundraisers and book donation drives for the Libraries with Love project, raising funds to build libraries in Africa. Their dedication earned them the well-deserved recognition as “Global Literacy Champion”. Beyond that, San Diego members have consistently supported local libraries and launched the Smiling Stars Reading Program, helping children with autism enhance their communication and comprehension skills through reading.

Beyond classroom and academic education, AYLUS San Diego also promotes personal growth and character development by cultivating leadership in every area. Through its system of committee chairs, every member has the opportunity to take on leadership roles, creatively designing and executing events that address diverse themes and issues within the community.



*Written by: Stella Zhao  
Revised by: Henry Tang*



Ten years on, AYLUS San Diego’s dedication shows no signs of slowing. Younger members are continually drawn in, attracted by the branch’s customizable and empowering structure, bringing innovative ideas and renewed energy that will keep the branch thriving in the years to come.

**Back-to-School Drives**

It’s back-to-school season, and students are scrambling for last-minute notebooks, pencils, and Kleenex. Yet one in four students can’t afford the necessary school supplies. This August, AYLUS members across the country stepped up—donating, collecting, organizing, and distributing school supplies to communities in need. AYLUS Morris and West Essex hosted back-to-school supply drives, bringing in generous donations of essential school items, including notebooks, folders, pencils, pens, and more. These contributions were then given to organizations like Helping Hands, Back2School, and DFWweCARE, where volunteers assisted in distributing them to students from under-resourced communities. The Bellaire, Dallas, Trophy Club, and Greater Buffalo branches were part of the effort—assembling backpacks filled with supplies and dispensing them to students. Through these initiatives, AYLUS branches equipped children with the tools they need to learn and ensured every student begins the school year on equal footing. Moving forward, AYLUS will continue to uplift students and foster equity in education.

*Written by: Zoe Cheng  
Revised by: Henry Tang*



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