



THE AYLUS TIMES

Alliance of Youth Leaders in the United States

No. 3

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to the West Essex, Great Neck, Frisco & Plano, San Diego, Roslyn, Syosset, Newtown, Murrieta, Basking Ridge, and Pearland branches for winning Branch of the Month for October 2025. Congratulations to the McLean, Lake Washington, and Gainesville branches for winning New Branch of the Month for October 2025.

November's monthly theme is "Veterans". We invite branches to incorporate this theme into their events.



MONTHLY THEMED CHALLENGE: HEALTH AWARENESS



Health isn't just about preventing illnesses; it's also our everyday choices—the food we eat and the movement that strengthens our bodies. In October, AYLUS branches nationwide dedicated their efforts to promoting community wellbeing through meaningful acts of service.

Malnutrition and food insecurity are major public health challenges that impact our development and community well-being. To combat this, AYLUS Frisco & Plano partnered with *Feed My Starving Children* to pack nutritious meals, while AYLUS West Essex prepared sandwiches for the homeless.

At the core of wellness lies mobility, powering everything from strength to spirit. To bolster mobility, AYLUS West Essex hosted fun, interactive activities to foster motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and social growth in children with autism. Meanwhile, AYLUS Newton provided transportation assistance to patients with limited mobility, ensuring that no transportation barrier would come between patients and their medical appointments.

Moving forward, AYLUS remains committed to nurturing health in all forms: strengthening bodies, uplifting hearts, and inspiring minds.



Written by: Zoe Cheng
Revised by: Megan Wang



HALLOWEEN: WHERE SERVICE GETS SPOOKY

Witches, ghosts, and black cats—Halloween is lurking around the corner. Embracing the macabre spirit, AYLUS branches demonstrated that even the spookiest night can be filled with light.



AYLUS Pearland and Birmingham assisted with trick-or-treat events, supporting animal shelters and zoos respectively through their efforts. Meanwhile, other branches turned their attention to the second star of Halloween: pumpkins. AYLUS Murrieta celebrated the season by harvesting pumpkins, while AYLUS Great Neck and Newtown creatively painted them. Newtown's decorated pumpkins were then delivered to senior centers to heighten the festive mood, while Great Neck's pumpkins—along with other trinkets they sold—supported a fundraising initiative. Championing inclusivity, the Morris branch made sure no one was left out by collecting and packing Halloween costumes for children in need.



Through members' creativity, collaboration, and dedication, AYLUS transformed a night of fright into real-world differences. AYLUS showed that every event, every season, and every celebration can be redirected toward service.

Written by: Stella Zhao
Revised by: Megan Wang

Learning Without Limits



"You can learn things any time if you're willing to be a beginner." This October, AYLUS embodied lifestyle coach Barbara Sher's words through education and service.



As the fall school semester progressed, branches hosted academic services that fostered students' confidence and furthered their knowledge. AYLUS San Diego marked major milestones with its 86th Smiling Stars

Reading program for autistic children and its 62nd Beast Academy math class, while AYLUS Newtown hosted its 10th reading session for young readers. New initiatives also took flight: AYLUS Lake Washington launched its first Physics $F=MA$ camp, and AYLUS Gainesville organized a speech-and-debate workshop.



Branches also committed their work toward cultural enrichment. Roslyn Branch members served as teaching assistants and taught children Mandarin, while the Gainesville Branch introduced a crochet class. Through these efforts, AYLUS continues to spark curiosity, celebrate culture, and nurture lifelong learning within communities nationwide.

Written by: Sarah Xue
Revised by: Megan Wang



GREEN ROOTS OF CHANGE

With the exacerbation of climate change at unprecedented rates, record-high temperatures in the last decade have put our environment more at risk than ever. This October, AYLUS branches in the US created roots of change, inspiring members to take simple, actionable steps to combat climate change.



In San Diego, members hosted their 53rd monthly recycling event, collecting items to be sorted in the recycling center to “protect our planet for future generations.” AYLUS Murrieta and Greater Triangle took to the streets to clean up litter left behind, and both gathered numerous bags of plastic and trash. In Oakland and Newton, students created a healthier environment by removing invasive species and spreading mulch, which improved soil health and nutrients, conserved water, and promoted native plant growth.



Through each cleanup, recycling drive, and restoration effort, AYLUS continues to plant seeds of change and nurture a greener world for generations to come.

*Written by: Eason Wang
Revised by: Henry Tang*

Branch Spotlight: *Great Neck*

Starting as a school club with just a handful of students, AYLUS Great Neck has become a thriving force within their local community. Since its founding on January 25, 2023, the branch has blossomed into a network of service projects that empower members to create a better society.



One of AYLUS Great Neck’s primary goals is environmental preservation, shown through their Park District Program. Not only do branch members spread woodchips, pick up litter, and maintain hiking trails, but they also nurture an appreciation for nature by keeping public parks clean and welcoming.

Alongside that, Great Neck members have consistently supported education and personal growth through the branch’s tutoring initiative. Held twice a week, the program creates a reliable space where students can receive in-person guidance. Tutoring sessions are often personalized, ensuring that learning is tailored to each student’s unique strengths and challenges.

Continuing the spirit of service, the Great Neck branch emphasizes the importance of giving back to the community. At the local markets, volunteers sell handmade crafts, such as crocheted animals, bracelets, and keychains. All proceeds are donated to charities like Adventures-in-Learning, turning creativity into a meaningful impact that extends far beyond the marketplace.

In every project, the Great Neck Branch exemplifies a true dedication to the community, demonstrating that meaningful change doesn’t require grand beginnings. Above all, AYLUS Great Neck inspires volunteers everywhere to view volunteering not as a way to rack up hours, but as an opportunity to learn and grow as individuals.



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

Caring for Our Elders

As autumn leaves fell, AYLUS branches nationwide united under a heartwarming goal: providing care and companionship with the elderly in their communities.

Equipping them with essential skills, AYLUS Basking Ridge guided senior citizens through smartphone apps while AYLUS West Essex taught English to Chinese-speaking elders, ensuring that seniors could navigate their day-to-day life with ease. In another effort, the Chapel Hill and Newtown branches brightened dementia care centers and senior homes with fresh flowers and painted pumpkins, bringing the warmth of nature and the joy of the season to residents. Meanwhile, AYLUS Columbus performers and AYLUS Twin Cities helpers brought music and comfort to senior homes through concerts and yardwork.



These efforts not only enriched the seniors’ lives but also deepened the volunteers’ understanding of empathy, service, and shared humanity. Together, AYLUS branches continue to prove that kindness knows no age and that intergenerational connection can inspire lasting community growth.

*Written by: Audrey Kuo
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