



THE AYLUS TIMES

Alliance of Youth Leaders in the United States

No. 9

Announcements

Congratulations to the Great Neck, San Diego, West Essex, Frisco & Plano, Murrieta, Basking Ridge, Roslyn, Chapel Hill, Pearland, Greater Buffalo, and Syosset branches for winning Branch of the Month for April 2026. Congratulations to the Gainesville, Irvine, and San Ramon/Dublin branches for winning New Branch of the Month for April 2026.

May's monthly theme is "Education and Literacy." We invite branches to incorporate this theme into their events.

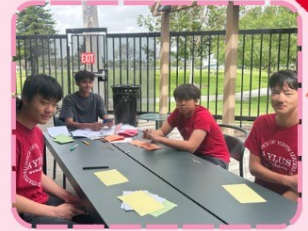


MONTHLY THEMED CHALLENGE: SENIOR SUPPORT

In the United States, over 61% of residents in senior homes experience moderate to severe loneliness. This April, AYLUS members around the nation dedicated their time to helping seniors feel more connected, engaged, and supported within their communities.

Members of the AYLUS Irvine branch created and decorated heartfelt cards filled with messages of appreciation and encouragement for seniors. The AYLUS Columbus Branch used their musical talents to bring joy to residents at their local Retirement Village through a night of entertainment and musical performances. In addition, the AYLUS San Diego and Basking Ridge branches hosted workshops designed to help seniors stay connected in their daily lives. Volunteers taught technology workshops to improve digital literacy and offered English lessons for non-English-speaking seniors.

Through these efforts, AYLUS members continue to foster meaningful connections with seniors and remain committed to building compassionate and inclusive communities for all generations.



Written by: Zoe Cheng
Revised by: Megan Wang

Environmental Stewardship



Throughout April, AYLUS branches across the United States dedicated their efforts to protecting and preserving their local environments, helping the surrounding nature flourish despite the negative impacts of human activity.

At the Great Neck and Oyster Bay branches, members participated in cleanup efforts at state parks to support local ecosystems and wildlife. Volunteers removed invasive plants by digging up roots and collected trash to maintain healthy natural spaces. Meanwhile, members of the Syosset and Roslyn branches led additional environmental initiatives within their communities. The Syosset branch worked to preserve native plant species, while the Royston branch organized proper and safe battery recycling efforts to reduce environmental harm and promote sustainability.

Through these ongoing environmental initiatives, AYLUS members continue to demonstrate their commitment to caring for the nature around them. With continued teamwork and dedication, AYLUS hopes to build a lasting positive impact on both local communities and the broader environment.



Written by: Stella Zhao
Revised by: Megan Wang

Culture Connects Communities

Culture is one of the strongest forces that brings people together, creating shared traditions, communication, and a sense of belonging. In April, AYLUS used service as a way to promote cultural appreciation and connect diverse groups within their communities.



The Syosset branch helped organize a Chinese School Lunar New Year celebration, while the St. Louis branch assisted in the Chinese Culture Days cultural event featuring traditional performances, crafts, and food. The Roslyn branch organized a book drive for Books for Taiwan, donating used books to underserved communities.

While the McLean branch volunteers taught Mandarin to younger students at a local Chinese school, the West Essex and San Diego branches provided workshops at senior homes, teaching English to Chinese-speaking residents. Through preserving traditions, encouraging cultural exchange, and overcoming language barriers, these projects demonstrate AYLUS's continued efforts to unite people across generations and cultural backgrounds to create more connected and inclusive communities.



Written by: Sarah Xue
Revised by: Megan Wang

Inclusion in Action: AYLUS Supports Special Needs Communities

As awareness around inclusion continues to grow, AYLUS branches across the country have expanded efforts to support individuals with special needs through hands-on programs and community events.



In New York, the Great Neck Branch assisted in an Accessible Art Program, guiding students through creative projects that encouraged self-expression and collaboration. In Texas, the Pearland Branch hosted a SMILE 4 Special Needs session, where participants engaged in recycling crafts, music activities, and skill-building exercises designed to promote coordination and confidence.

In New Jersey, the Basking Ridge Branch supported the Bernards PEC program by leading physical activities and encouraging participation in team games, while the West Essex Branch volunteered with a Special Olympics swimming team and organized a musical class to foster learning through movement and rhythm.

Additional efforts, including inclusive community events and fundraising initiatives, strengthened support systems for families and encouraged fun experiences for children. Through consistent engagement, AYLUS branches continue to promote inclusion, creating spaces where individuals of all abilities can learn, connect, and thrive.



Written by: Audrey Kuo
Revised by: Henry Tang



Education Empowerment



This April, AYLUS branches continue to make a meaningful impact through education and community service. The McLean Branch contributed to Chinese School programs and taught Mandarin to elementary and middle school students, preserving cultural identity while introducing students to a structured learning environment. With large Mandarin-speaking communities, these efforts promote both language development and cultural diversity.



Similarly, West Essex volunteers supported Livingston Huaxia Chinese School by assisting with administrative tasks, directing traffic, and guiding families, ensuring smooth daily operations. In Great Neck, tutoring sessions at the station library provided individualized academic support in subjects like math, reading, and history.

Despite high demand, volunteers adapted effectively, putting their full effort into the activities. Through teaching, organizing, and mentoring, AYLUS members demonstrated a strong commitment to empowering their communities through education. In the future, AYLUS will continue to ensure education remains accessible and an enjoyable experience for all.



Written by: Eason Wang
Revised by: Henry Tang

Spotlighted Branch: West Essex

Located in Essex County, New Jersey, the West Essex branch has become a vibrant center for student-led service since its founding in 2022. Established by high school students passionate about supporting individuals with special needs, the branch now serves its surrounding communities through a wide range of impactful initiatives.

A defining feature of West Essex is its committee-based leadership structure, with teams assigned to areas such as arts and crafts, environmental protection, music, sports, and outreach. This system has allowed members to balance busy schedules while taking on leadership roles and collaborating effectively.

Guided by values of integrity, leadership, and inclusivity, West Essex promotes safe communities and fosters meaningful connections through service. One standout example is their partnership with Waves of Health, a non-profit organization that goes on annual medical missions. Volunteers work alongside the organization to sort, pack, and transport medical supplies for underserved communities. Additionally, West Essex regularly supports individuals with special needs through sports-based initiatives, hosting summer sports workshops and volunteering with Special Olympics programs.

Looking ahead, the branch hopes to inspire a lasting commitment to service, encouraging members to carry forward a tradition of volunteering even after they graduate. By fostering collaboration and empowering students to take initiative, AYLUS West Essex continues to prepare young leaders to make a meaningful impact, both within their community and far beyond it.



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