



THE AYLUS TIMES

Alliance of Youth Leaders in the United States

No. 14

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to the Pearland, San Diego, Great Neck, West Essex, Syosset, Roslyn, Murrieta, Chapel Hill, Lake Washington, Frisco & Plano, Oakland Gardens, and Greater Buffalo branches for winning Branch of the Month for September 2026. Congratulations to the Irvine and Gainesville branches for winning New Branch of the Month for September 2026.

September's monthly theme is **"Check-in Challenge"**. We invite branches to incorporate this theme into their events.



MONTHLY THEMED CHALLENGE: KEEP THE EARTH GREEN

From picking up litter to removing invasive plants, AYLUS branches spent this September turning environmental awareness into action. Through the "Keep the Earth Green" initiative, volunteers across the nation took part in protecting and preserving their local environments.

The Greater Triangle branch helped restore a neighborhood park, removing litter from sidewalks, bushes, and greenways. Similarly, the Bellaire branch collected plastic bottles, food packaging, paper waste, and other litter at Evelyn's Park. Beyond litter cleanup, the Dix Hills branch worked at Bethpage State Park to remove invasive plants such as English ivy and honeysuckle, creating space for native species to grow. The San Diego branch also contributed to environmental protection by collecting and recycling used batteries, keeping hazardous waste out of landfills.

Through these projects, AYLUS branches exemplify how hands-on environmental service can make a lasting difference in the communities they call home.



Written by: Angie Feng
Revised by: Zoe Cheng

Senior Care

Seniors are the backbone of the community, sharing stories, passing down wisdom, and taking care of grandchildren. This September, AYLUS members around the nation returned the favor by providing both entertainment and assistance to those living in senior homes.

The Murrieta Branch performed their weekly Library Live Performance at the Atria Senior Living center, featuring a mix of classical music, jazz, and familiar tunes. They also served ice cream and spent quality time chatting with the residents. Similarly, AYLUS Columbus applied their musical talents and put on a well-received recital for their local seniors. In Garden City, NY, and Basking Ridge, NJ, volunteers offered one-on-one technology assistance, answering questions and explaining technology in a clear, understandable way.



Through these considerate actions, our volunteers have demonstrated AYLUS's commitment to giving back to all parts of the community, especially our beloved seniors.

Written by: Zoe Cheng
Revised by: Zoe Cheng



Accessible Learning

Education is a key aspect of every child's development. However, because online classes and tutoring programs are often unaffordable or inaccessible, they place a heavy burden on parents. This September, AYLUS volunteers dedicated their time to providing free, accessible tutoring to kids.



In the Irvine branch, volunteers hosted virtual tutoring sessions over Zoom covering topics such as chess, math, and STEM. These accessible virtual tutoring sessions allowed kids to join from anywhere, eliminating transportation issues. Similarly, AYLUS San Diego and Raritan Valley branches held English literacy classes that reached students worldwide. Taking a different approach, the Great Neck branch held in-person tutoring sessions at the Station Library. Volunteers were grouped with kids to assist them with their homework and upcoming tests.

Through engaging lessons and patience, our volunteers made a meaningful impact on these young learners, demonstrating AYLUS's dedication to helping them thrive and setting them up for future success.

Written by: Chloe Wang
Revised by: Zoe Cheng





A Battle Against Hunger

According to the USDA, about 1 in 7 families still experience food insecurity. This September, AYLUS branches across the nation teamed up with food banks and pantries to support those families.

In Greenville, North Carolina, students sorted and packed potatoes and cucumbers, while San Diego members partnered with San Diego Food Bank to distribute meals to local charities and food pantries. Similarly, in Irvine, California, volunteers helped their local food bank organize frozen food for distribution. On Long Island, the Roslyn branch spent a morning bagging meals and sorted produce with NOSH Delivers in Glen Cove, and Garden City members restocked shelves and prepared pet food at a pantry at Nassau Community College. In New Jersey, the Morris branch collected about 40 pounds of non-perishables, checked every expiration date and delivered them through a Chatham church.

All together, 24 student volunteers were able to come together to create impacts that will reach thousands. Their efforts exemplify AYLUS's message that impactful volunteering comes from small, consistent acts.



*Written by: Rachel Zhang
Revised by: Henry Tang*



PRESERVING NATURE



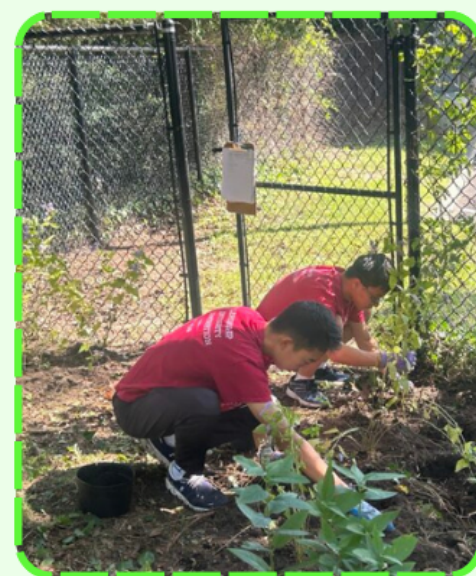
As September brings cooler weather and the first signs of fall, AYLUS branches across the country are helping to care for the outdoor spaces in their communities.

On September 19, the Birmingham Branch cleaned up the annual Fall Plant Sale at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, returning unsold plants to their designated areas and restoring the event space. Meanwhile, the Great Neck Branch participated in the International Beach Cleanup Day at Jones Beach State Park, collecting bottles, packaging, plastic, and other litter along the shoreline despite strong winds.



Other branches focused on protecting local ecosystems. The Dix Hills Branch removed invasive plants at Bethpage State Park and planted native species, while the Syosset Branch supported the Long Island Native Plant Initiative by repotting plants and removing weeds. Bellaire, Glen Head, and Murrieta branches also organized park cleanups to reduce litter and maintain public spaces.

As the seasons change, these projects show how AYLUS branches continue to protect and care for the natural spaces around them.



*Written by: Audrey Kuo
Revised by: Henry Tang*

Branch Spotlight: Great Neck

What began as a school club has grown into one of AYLUS's most active student-run branches. Founded in January 2023, Great Neck joined AYLUS as its 128th branch with a mission of fostering leadership and community service among youth.

At the heart of the branch is its commitment to education. Twice a week, volunteers gather at the Great Neck Station Library to help K-8 students with their homework and to help adults practice English. By serving learners of all ages, the program reflects the branch's belief that everyone deserves a place to grow.



The branch's service extends beyond the classroom. At its farmers market fundraisers, members sell handcrafted goods, sending the proceeds to Adventures in Learning, a nonprofit supporting underprivileged children. Turning creativity into support for others keeps service from being only about volunteering time, making it something members can enjoy. Likewise, the branch's partnership with the local Park District lets members care for their community parks and trails. Members have also volunteered with CP Nassau, a program serving adults with disabilities. Through these efforts, Great Neck extends their service to every corner of the community.

Together, these projects give members many ways to turn their skills and interests into meaningful service. By pairing consistent, long-running service with a wide range of projects, Great Neck shows that small, steady acts can have a lasting impact on the community.

*Written by: Henry Tang
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