



THE AYLUS TIMES

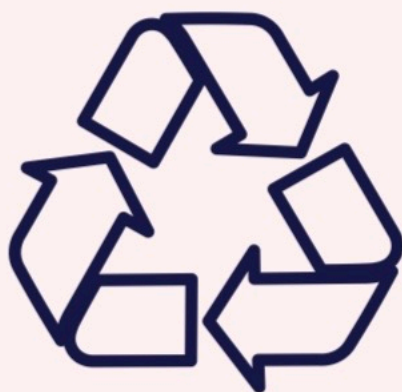
Alliance of Youth Leaders in the United States

No. 13

Announcements

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

September's monthly theme is "Keep the Earth Green". We invite branches to incorporate this theme into their events.



Monthly Themed Challenge: Keep the Earth Green



The September challenge invites every member to find their own entry point. Clean up a beach, park, or trail. Organize a recycling drive for your neighborhood. Plant something, whether in your yard, a pot, or a community space. Pick up a few pieces of litter whenever you are out walking. Commit to a reusable cup for a week.

You do not have to do something huge to help the environment. Start with one thing, and keep going.

Sustainability is rarely the work of a single grand gesture. It is the sum of small, repeated choices: a bottle sorted instead of tossed, a seedling watered, a trail cleared of litter. This September, AYLUS branches nationwide are treating environmental care as an ongoing habit rather than a one-day event.



Written by: Max Yang
Revised by: Max Yang



SERVICE AND STORIES: LIBRARIES

Libraries are a core part of many people's childhoods. Whether it is a thriller or fantasy story, everyone can find a book to get lost in. In August, AYLUS members sought to give back by volunteering at their local libraries.

At the Glen Head and Great Neck branches, volunteers hosted various activities. These included reading books to children, bedazzling craft kits, and folding origami. Similarly, the Murrieta and San Diego branches donated books and helped libraries organize them.

Through the meaningful efforts of AYLUS members, libraries have become a more welcoming and tidy environment. Giving back to the library creates a place where more kids can thrive, a full-circle moment for many volunteers.



Written by: Chloe Wang
Revised by: Max Yang



Donation Drives

Sometimes, all anyone needs is a handmade meal or item to brighten their day. This August, AYLUS members worked nonstop to gather and process donations for those in need.

AYLUS RSM worked with Saddleback Church to package food and supplies donated by local residents. Similarly, volunteers from West Essex donated homemade PB&J sandwiches to feed homeless people in Newark. Other branches focused on material goods like placemats, flowers, and crafts. AYLUS Syosset and Island Harvest oversaw a Back to School Drive, receiving over 415 pounds of school supplies to distribute to underprivileged students. Additionally, the Roslyn branch and Columbus branch made crocheted drawstring bags and placemats for Meals on Wheels.

The diligence of these volunteers highlights AYLUS's mission to make the community a better place. In the future, AYLUS will continue to provide for those in need, one meal or craft at a time.



Written by: Zoe Cheng
Revised by: Zoe Cheng

Preparing for the First Bell

As summer draws to a close, AYLUS branches are helping students head into the new school year prepared to learn, create, and succeed. Across the country, volunteers have combined tutoring, educational workshops, and school-supply drives to support returning students.



The Great Neck Branch continued tutoring sessions in reading, English, and art, while the Irvine Branch provided online math instruction. Twin Cities concluded an eight-week Chinese, Art, and Math Summer Workshop, giving younger students opportunities to strengthen academic and creative skills. Columbus hosted a free Summer Coding Academy, offering small-group programming workshops and individualized guidance. Meanwhile, the Rancho Santa Margarita Branch prepared care packages filled with stationery, and San Clemente volunteers collected and organized school supplies for a back-to-school donation event.

Through these efforts, AYLUS branches are helping students enter the school year with greater preparation and support, continuing to build a stronger, united community.



Written by: Audrey Kuo

Revised by: Zoe Cheng

Nature



AYLUS RSM and Murrieta branches lent a hand to their local gardens, harvesting fresh produce, watering plants, removing weeds, and tending flowers. The Great Neck Branch maintained and improved their park's walking trails by clearing wood chips and filling in tire tracks. Similarly, AYLUS North Hollywood partnered with TreePeople to restore LA River's greenway, ensuring the wildlife in the area had a rich habitat to live in.

Through these efforts, AYLUS members kept their local green spaces in tip-top shape, exemplifying our dedication to giving back to the community.



Written by: Zoe Cheng

Revised by: Zoe Cheng

From Passions to Purpose: The Lake Washington Branch

What began as a small group of Eastlake High School students has grown into a flourishing branch where students turn their passions into opportunities to teach, serve, and lead. Established in September 2024 by Eric Huang, Jerry Yang, and Elissa Song, Lake Washington joined AYLUS as its 170th branch.

Since its founding, the branch has taken a unique approach to volunteering by leveraging the diverse knowledge and interests of its members. Rather than limiting service to traditional volunteer opportunities, the branch allows students to turn their skills in areas such as coding, arts, sports, gardening, and cooking into opportunities to help others. This emphasis on individual interests is also reflected in the branch's committee structure, with committee chairs leading projects based on their own passions and expertise.



One of the branch's earliest and most consistent initiatives has been its coding program. In September 2024, members began a 10-week Scratch Coding Camp to help students develop their programming skills. The branch has since expanded its educational programs to include subjects such as physics, biology, math, and 3D modeling. Beyond education, Lake Washington members regularly participate in environmental stewardship. Through the Hometown Sammamish Youth Action Group, members can take part in habitat restoration projects that help preserve local ecosystems.

Ultimately, the Lake Washington Branch's diverse projects allow members to transform their interests into meaningful service. By giving volunteers the freedom to lead and create, the branch shows that making a difference can start with simply sharing what you love.



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