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THE AYLUS TIMES

Alliance of Youth Leaders in the United States

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to the Great Neck, San Diego, Murrieta, West Essex, Syosset, Frisco & Plano, Roslyn, Basking Ridge, Chapel Hill, Columbus, and Morris branches for winning Branch of the Month for October 2026. Congratulations to the Irvine, Garden City, and Glen Head branches for winning New Branch of the Month for October 2026.



Monthly Themed Challenge: CHECK IN CHALLENGE



Sometimes, a simple conversation can remind someone that they are not alone. This October, AYLUS's Check In Challenge encouraged members to strengthen connections and support emotional well-being through small, thoughtful acts.

The Irvine Branch visited a local senior center, creating Halloween cards and talking with residents. At their local library, Great Neck volunteers brought children together through story readings and creative activities, including pumpkin crafts and crocheting. Meanwhile, members in Garden City returned to their local senior center, helping elders navigate phones and tablets through one-on-one technology help.



By encouraging members to notice the people around them and take meaningful action, the Check In Challenge highlights the importance of everyday kindness. Stronger communities begin with connections, and a simple check-in can be the first step.

Written by: Audrey Kuo
Revised by: Henry Tang

HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES

For many children, Halloween is one of the most anticipated days of the year, with costumes, candy, and trick-or-treating. This October, AYLUS branches participated in Halloween celebrations throughout their communities, bringing the holiday to children, families, and seniors.



Volunteers in Silverlake and Basking Ridge supported trunk-or-treat events at elementary schools, while Delaware members participated in an annual Halloween community parade, collaborating with businesses to distribute candy to children and families. In Frisco-Plano, volunteers created balloon art at a Halloween event, adding colorful decorations to the festivities. Other branches extended the Halloween spirit to different parts of their communities. Glen Head members crafted Halloween-themed cards for seniors, Greater Buffalo volunteers assisted at Niagara Heritage Village's trick-or-treat event, and Morris partnered with Helping Hands Family Center to donate costumes.



Through these activities, AYLUS members helped ensure Halloween was a shared community experience, making the holiday enjoyable for people of all ages.

Written by: Henry Tang
Revised by: Henry Tang

A Season of Giving

Behind every donated meal, bag of clothing, and package of hygiene supplies is an opportunity to make someone's day easier. This October, AYLUS branches brought this spirit of generosity to their communities through a variety of donation projects.



Among these efforts, the Frisco-Plano branch volunteered with Feed My Starving Children, helping pack boxes containing over 20,000 meals for communities facing food insecurity. Meanwhile, the Irvine branch sorted and organized frozen food at a food bank, and the West Essex branch partnered with their local community to organize a PB&J Sandwiches Drive. Beyond food support, the Oakland Gardens branch organized a clothing drive and collected 356 bags of clothing, while the Morris branch partnered with GRACE to collect, sort, and organize over 400 hygiene products.



Though each branch served in a different way, their efforts shared a common purpose: making essential resources more accessible to local families.

Written by: Angie Feng
Revised by: Henry Tang

Handmade Crafts, Made with Love



Sometimes, all it takes is a handmade craft to make someone feel special. This October, AYLUS volunteers around the nation designed and created crafts to bring appreciation and love to their local community.

The AYLUS Chapel Hill Branch made soft pillows and origami gifts, bringing happiness and comfort to families going through difficult times. Similarly, the Frisco & Plano Branch crocheted stuffed animals to donate to children's hospitals. Branches also decorated placemats and lunch sacks for food relief efforts. Columbus Branch created Halloween-themed placemats for the Meals on Wheels program, while AYLUS Roslyn designed and decorated Nosh Bags. Meanwhile, volunteers from Glen Head created appreciation cards for their local hospital and first aid staff.

Through these efforts, AYLUS volunteers continue to demonstrate their dedication to uplifting those around them!





Written by: Zoe Cheng
Revised by: Zoe Cheng

Branch Spotlight:

How AYLUS Syosset Keeps Tradition Alive



Since its founding in 2020, AYLUS Syosset has grown into a branch of over 240 members who have hosted more than 640 events. Recognized as Branch of the Year five times, this Long Island branch has built its success on the idea of traditions worth keeping.

"Our annual events are passed down from one generation of AYLUS leadership to the next," explained the branch president. Each new office team inherits these traditions and carries them forward.

The most meaningful of these is the annual Candlelight 9/11 Memorial. Every September 11, members gather at the Syosset Fire Department to remember those lost in the attacks, including Syosset firefighters who responded that day and never came home. AYLUS Syosset commemorates the tragedy by bringing baked goods, flowers, and a hand-drawn card from one of the members every year to never forget.

The branch started these events to uncover local issues and show how AYLUS could make a direct impact. Today, the memorial keeps the community closely knit, connecting students with local first responders and even drawing school members each year. Looking ahead, AYLUS Syosset hopes to add more annual traditions. The Walk to End Alzheimer's, which the branch has joined since 2022, is already becoming one of them.



Overall, AYLUS Syosset has truly dedicated themselves to being student-driven, compassionate, and united over the years.

Written by: Rachel Zhang
Revised by: Zoe Cheng

Math Mania



As the excitement of the new school year dwindles down, academic tutoring programs are now in full swing. Since math is a core aspect of the school curriculum, AYLUS members sought to provide free math resources for students of all levels.

In the Newtown and McLean branches, volunteers held tutoring programs at local schools, where they covered various topics such as Precalculus, Algebra, and general math. Volunteers effectively taught young kids the core concepts behind difficult topics to enhance their understanding.

Taking a slightly different approach, the Northwest Arkansas branch developed weekly math classes preparing kids for the Math Olympiad taking place later in the year. These classes will be hosted for 30 weeks at the Walson Chinese School, creating the perfect opportunity for high-achieving students to expand on their interests.

Overall, the efforts of AYLUS volunteers this October reflect AYLUS's commitment to building a supportive and innovative community.



Written by: Chloe Wang
Revised by: Zoe Cheng

The AYLUS Times Team

Editor-in-Chief

Henry Tang

Co-Editors

Zoe Cheng

Layout Editors

Selina Yuan

Writers

Audrey Kuo, Angie Feng, Chloe Wang, Rachel Zhang