

Dear CYV Community Member,

Many people think of spring as a time of fresh starts, but the [Center for Youth Voice](#) team is excited to share all that's already happened in 2024!

- In January, we welcomed close to 1,300 students from over 55 Minnesota schools for the 70<sup>th</sup> annual **Youth in Government Conference**. The first bill attendees passed was focused on raising awareness about pre-voter registration for 16 and 17-year-olds, which was a real bill passed by the Minnesota Legislature in their previous session.
- In February we hosted **Youth Day at the Capitol**, where nearly 500 youth participants gathered at the MN History Center to learn from their peers how to be effective advocates. From there, the group headed over to the Capitol to attend meetings with local elected officials to discuss issues that matter to them. Advocacy in action is the hands-on experience where we see youth step up and thrive!
- Also in February, I had the great pleasure of accompanying two young people to Washington D.C. for **YMCA National Advocacy Days**. During this visit we met with all eight congressional offices and both senate offices to talk about prominent issues affecting YMCAs and Minnesotans.
- In April, 600+ young people in grades 7-12 attended the 37th annual **Model UN Conference** where they discussed and passed resolutions on issues including AI use in military technology, genetic modification controls, transactional organized crime, unequal vaccine and medicine distribution, and the harm of micro-plastics, among other topics.
- Looking forward to this summer, we will take 30 Minnesotan and Wisconsin youth in grades 9-12 to the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain, NC for the **Conference on National Affairs**. This annual event is a five-day intensive leadership experience with other delegates from across the country. We will also be hosting the **National Judicial Competition** in early August, where we will welcome more than 250 young people from 20 different states to be judges and attorneys in mock appeal courts and civil trials.
- We are excited to announce **two new initiatives** in the coming months. The first is a year-round program focused on training and supporting youth advocates, and the second is a series of one- and two-day workshops covering a variety of topics that will make it easier to engage with youth and families who need shorter conference alternatives.



Your generosity helps make all this (and more!) possible, fueling our work to cultivate the next generation of informed and empowered citizens. Through our alumni, parents, volunteers, and donors, we are inspiring youth to create positive change in our society and continue to lead with bipartisanship as the goal. For this, I am deeply grateful.

Thank you for being part of every Center for Youth Voice journey. I wish you and your family a wonderful summer ahead!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Anderson". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Amy" and "Anderson" being capitalized and prominent.

Amy Anderson  
Executive Director

**P.S.** Let's keep the conversation going! Connect with us and find an opportunity to get involved by visiting [ymcanorth.org/locations/center\\_for\\_youth\\_voice/about/alumni](http://ymcanorth.org/locations/center_for_youth_voice/about/alumni).