

State Youth Council Conferences Overview & Calendar

The State Youth Council coordinates local youth councils across the state by assisting newly organized councils and sponsoring three yearly youth leadership conferences and a Spring Convention. Leadership conferences are planned and coordinated by Youth Council members with the assistance of an adult advisor. The Winston-Salem Youth Advisory Council is one of 24 SYC chartered youth councils. In addition, there are 14 other state youth councils that remain unchartered. The following conferences are sponsored by SYC:

Leadership Day Conference (October) The purpose of this conference is assemble executive board members of each Youth Council to learn leadership skills and share ideas. Executive board members are the essential leaders of their individual Youth Councils. Gathering together to speak and learn about leadership will allow students to take new knowledge and skills to their fellow council members. Students will gain beneficial knowledge and skills to help them become leaders. Executive Board members will bring back information about leadership tips, service project ideas, and discussion points.

Mini-Grant Conference (November): The Mini-Grant Program was initiated by the Youth Advisory Council in 1977. The mini-grants give youth an opportunity to develop program ideas, write grant proposals, screen grants submitted by youth groups, and implement defined program objectives. With an annual appropriation from the N.C. General Assembly, the Youth Advisory Council is able to award grants averaging from \$100 to \$500 for a wide range of youth-directed projects. Grant applications are received in the fall of each year.

Teambuilding Leadership Conference (January): Leadership/Team-building Programs teach youth essential skills: cooperation, communication and teamwork. These concepts are usually taught through Adventure Learning Programs such as The Blue Ridge Assembly. Team-building programs show how groups function and how individuals contribute to group success. The dynamics of group process are modeled through challenge course activities to create educational, motivating experiences with real impact

Spring Convention (April): The Spring Convention is a time for all SYC councils to assemble together to wrap up the various service they have done throughout the year. This is also a time to award the Most Diverse Council, Most Outstanding Council, Most Outstanding Member, Service Project of the Year, and present Seniors with awards.

Service-Learning Conference Day (March): Service-Learning Day primary foci were to provide opportunities that would enable young people to successfully complete their developmental tasks. Providing joint service projects (e.g. Habitat for Humanity, clean-up litter campaign) educating youth on the importance of making contributions to their communities.

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***SYC Eboard Orientation** – Thursday, August 10, 2023
(10:00 am – 12:00 pm)

***Advisor Retreat** – Thursday, August 31, 2023
(Hosted by: The State Office, 10:00 am – 3:30 pm)

Leadership Day Conference – Saturday, October 7, 2023
(Hosted by: The State Office)

***Mini Grant Conference** – November 3 – 5, 2023
(Hosted by: Rocky Mount Area Youth Council)

***Teambuilding Conference** – February 9 – 11, 2024
(Hosted by: Concord Youth Council)

Service-Learning Conference – The Month of March
(Remotely)

***Spring Convention** – April 12 – 14, 2024
(Hosted by: Lake Norman Teen Council)

*Denotes events attended by the Winston-Salem Youth Advisory Council