

2024 LEADERS IN LIFE YOUTH CONFERENCE

General Information

Conference Date/Time: Thursday, March 14, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Venue: Mechanics Bank Convention Center, 1001 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield 93301

Target Audience: High school, middle school, and 6th through 8th grade students who attend K-8 schools

- Your school/agency is invited to send up to the maximum number of students indicated on form.
- Each school/agency is also required to obtain permission slips for each student and keep those slips on file.
- The Youth Conference Planning Committee encourages you to fill your available slots with students from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds and academic achievement levels who would not ordinarily experience a conference of this nature, (ASB or campus club officers are only part of the target audience for this conference).
- Students participating on the conference planning committee need not be included in your registration.
- **KCSOS's Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program is providing an opportunity for foster and homeless youth to attend the conference at no charge.** Please email your general questions, issues, and requests for assistance regarding students experiencing foster care or homelessness to our team email: fosteredcoordinator@kern.org.

Purpose: The day is planned by youth for youth with the assistance of adult advisors. Students in attendance will have the opportunity to discuss and evaluate issues they face daily, to learn more about community resources, and to plan for their future in a positive environment.

Format: General conference format - Keynote and Guest Speakers, breakout sessions and resource fair.

Media: State law permits media access to student events. The news media may elect to cover all or part of this event with photos, video, or text, which identifies and/or quotes the student. News coverage may appear in newspapers, newsletters, on television, radio, or other publicly circulated communications. This coverage assists in highlighting many wonderful student-led projects in our county and across the region.

Logistics

Registration Fee: \$25 per person (students, advisors, and chaperones).

- Includes lunch, materials and conference t-shirt

T-shirts: Conference theme t-shirt with the Leaders in Life logo will be issued to each person registered

- School/Agency contact will be notified when shirts are available and asked to make arrangements to pick them up.
- Participating students, advisors, and chaperones are **required** to wear the t-shirt in order to enter the conference. Students not wearing the conference t-shirt will not be allowed to participate.

Chaperones:

- The required student to adult ratio is 10:1 and you are responsible for providing enough advisors/chaperones for your student attendees.
- School/agency employees as well as parents may serve as advisors or chaperones and are encouraged to help stimulate learning through discussion and debriefing of each segment of the conference.
- Advisors/chaperones are required to stay with the students throughout the entire day. Schools or agencies in violation of this request may be asked to leave the conference.

Registration:

- Enclosed, you will find a conference checklist, agenda, breakout session workshop topic list, registration form, and a letter to advisors/chaperones.
- **Please read everything carefully and fill registration form out completely and return right away.**
- Payments in the form of check, cash, money order, or purchase orders need to be received, by our office, **prior to the conference.** We cannot accept electronic payments or credit cards.

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Conference Checklist

- Read all enclosed information **carefully**.
- Select no more than the maximum number of students you indicated on your Intent to Participate form and place them into groups of 10 with at least one adult chaperone/advisor per group.
- The advisors/chaperones who will accompany the students to the conference should review the following with the selected students:
 - breakout session workshop topics and agenda
 - permission slips
 - rules and requirements including group sizes, t-shirts, lunch wrist bands, etc.
- Each school or agency is encouraged to develop a plan of action to implement at their own school or organization involving ideas and lessons learned throughout the day.
- E-mail the completed **Registration Form** by: **Friday, March 1, 2024**
- Make a copy of the registration form for your records and bring it with you to the conference.
- Registration Fee Checks & Purchase Orders payable to:
Kern County Superintendent of Schools (or KCSOS)
- Mail payment to:
Attn: Alicia Mil
Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office
1300 17th Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301-4533
- If you do not receive an e-mailed confirmation of your registration within three business days of returning the registration form, contact Alicia Mil at (661) 636-4573 or almil@kern.org.
- Arrange for the students and their advisors/chaperones to be at the Mechanics Bank Convention Center by **8:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 14, 2024**.
- For any special needs (i.e., hearing, vision, seating, food, etc.), please contact Christine Goodhart-Humphrey at the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office as soon as possible at (661) 636-4330, or email chumphrey@kern.org.

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Important Information for Advisors and/or Chaperones

We greatly appreciate your support for young people and for our conference for youth planned by youth. It is truly a unique event, one of the largest youth conferences planned by teens in the entire United States. The Youth Planning Committee, with over 120 young people, has been working very hard to plan this conference to give young people a voice in our community and to show what great things young people can accomplish.

The purpose of this conference and resource fair is to provide youth with an opportunity to learn more about community resources, a chance to plan for their future, and a positive and safe environment to discuss and evaluate issues they face daily.

Students and advisors will receive conference materials, lunch and a conference theme t-shirt. The agenda, guidelines, maps to breakout sessions and school/agency nametags will be distributed to all students and advisors/chaperones at conference check-in. Groups will also be issued colored wrist bands that each person must wear all day. Anyone without a wristband will not receive lunch.

Please note for safety reasons: All students and chaperones will be provided T-shirts that must be worn on the day of the conference. This allows event organizers to identify authorized attendees and keep out unauthorized persons. Students and chaperones, not wearing T-shirts, will not be admitted to the conference. Also, all student groups (10 students & 1 adult chaperone) MUST stay together in their groups throughout the conference. Advisors/chaperones MUST stay with students the ENTIRE day, this means during opening and keynote speakers, during workshops, and during lunch. There should be no time when chaperones and youth are separated. Any group in violation of this request may be asked to leave the conference.

The designated parking area for school busses and agency vans or personal vehicles is in the P1 parking area, located directly south of the Convention Center (Mechanics Bank Arena). Students may be dropped off along Truxtun Avenue and "N" Streets. Parking passes are not necessary or required. Busses and vehicles not parked in this designated area may be subject to parking tickets. **REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN WILL BE LOCATED IN FRONT OF THE MECHANICS BANK CONVENTION CENTER.**

****ALL ADULT ADVISORS: PLEASE READ THIS INFORMATION BEFORE ENTERING THE MECHANICS BANK CONVENTION CENTER ON REQUIRED ADULT SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS AT THIS YOUTH CONFERENCE****

The required student to adult ratio is 10:1 and your school/agency is responsible for providing enough advisors/chaperones for your student attendees. Adult Advisors are required to stay with the students throughout the entire day. Schools or agencies in violation of this request may be asked to leave the conference.

Please discuss your expectations for appropriate behavior with your students prior to entering the Convention Center. Remind your adult advisors that their role is to show they value your students by spending time WITH THEM today as they attend workshops, discuss speakers and talk with them about what they hear and see. We look forward to your support on this as it sends a clear message to your students that they matter and that you care about them.

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Conference Agenda

March 14, 2024

- 8:00 am - 9:00 am School and agency check-in
- 9:00 am - 9:30 am Welcome – Leaders in Life Youth Conference
- 9:30 am - 10:05 am Motivational Opening Speaker: **Blake Fly**, A 9x TEDx speaker who inspires audiences to use unexpected appreciation to build an epic life, business, and world.
- 10:05 am - 10:15 am Housekeeping & instructions for workshops & lunch
- 10:15 am - 10:25 am Break (all students transition to Session I)
- SESSION I**
- 10:25 am - 11:10 am Group A – Breakout Sessions
Group B – Breakout Sessions
Group C – Lunch/Resource Fair
- 11:10 am - 11:20 am Break (all students transition to Session II)
- SESSION II**
- 11:20 am - 12:05 pm Group A – Lunch/Resource Fair
Group B – Breakout Sessions
Group C – Breakout Sessions
- 12:05 pm - 12:15 pm Break (all students transition to Session III)
- SESSION III**
- 12:15 pm - 1:00 pm Group A – Breakout Sessions
Group B – Lunch/Resource Fair
Group C – Breakout Sessions
- 1:00 pm - 1:10 pm Break (transition to auditorium)
- 1:10 pm - 2:10 pm Keynote Speaker – **Duncan Kirkwood**, a Veteran, father of three and recognized authority on psychological resilience. He has spent his professional life working to empower students, educators, organizations and communities.
- 2:10 pm - 2:15 pm Closing Remarks and Evaluations
- 2:15 pm Adjourn and load busses



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Breakout Session Workshop Topics

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- 1 BLACK LIVES MATTER/DIVERSITY:**
This workshop will outline major cultural protests from history and their impact on society. Participants will learn about the oppression affecting African Americans today. Participants will take a deep look at racism that people of color have endured and will examine the differences and similarities among their peers. Join the conversation about activism and join in the fight for justice. The Honoring Our Diversity Workshop will give an overview of cultural diversity and invite students to define, celebrate, and honor their differences. Attendees will participate in an activity where they can share personal experiences with discrimination and oppression. Presenters will facilitate a brief "Circle", to model and introduce the group format and the importance of each step of the circle.
Presenter: Lewis Neal, Youth Services Supervisor, Bakersfield City School District
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- 2 CAREER READINESS, PROVIDED BY EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE:**
In this quickly changing world, how can we know how to be ready for what is coming next? Join us to explore three key skill areas that will always be critical to your life and career success and learn how to build them up in yourself!
Presenter: Dr. Kierstin Webb, KCSOS
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- 3 DUI COURT: THE AFTERMATH OF DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE:**
The panel discussion will focus on the legal and financial consequences of driving under the influence, including alcohol, marijuana, prescriptions, and other drugs.
Presenter: Judge Bush has been a judge for 26 years. He was a prosecutor for almost 10 years before becoming a judge. He has been involved in hundreds of DUI cases as both a prosecutor and a judge.
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- 4 STUDENTS WORKING AGAINST TOBACCO (SWAT):**
Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) will be presenting the basics of vaping, as well as the negative side effects. Students will be given the opportunity to take initiative and become advocates for others by using their voice and status as leaders to make a change.
Presenter: Elizabeth Velasco-Ramirez
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- 5 SUBSTANCE ABUSE:**
What are your biggest dreams? What do you think is impossible? Well, it is possible ...but only if you never use drugs.
Presenter: Andrew "Dance Fever" Jones
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- 6 MENTAL HEALTH: Navigating the Teen World!**
DESCRIPTION: Join us as we explore how healthy relationships, social media, a growth mindset, and a positive mental health outlook plays a role in how to be the healthiest YOU!
Presenters: Gena Lieske, KCSOS and Joann Barrick, Highland High School
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- 7 MASTERING PUBLIC SPEAKING:**
As leaders, we are required to speak in public often. Sometimes that speaking is planned and rehearsed, but more often there is simply an opportunity that is presented in daily life. Speaking in public can be challenging, but FEAR NOT...THERE IS HELP! Come and learn a simple three step structure you can use in small groups or audiences of 1000 to make your opportunities to speak impactful and powerful to support you as a leader in your organization.
Presenter: Chris Persons, Management Analyst for the Kern County Superintendent of Schools
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- 8 LEADERS IN LIFE 101:**
Looking for a way to share your leadership skills? Would you like to improve your leadership skills? This workshop will provide the avenue to do both. Learn what Leaders in Life is all about and how you can get involved.
Presenter: Leaders in Life Executive members
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- 9 GAY STRAIGHT ALLIANCE: SUPPORTING LGBTQ+ STUDENTS**
California State University, Bakersfield will provide a workshop with a panel of students discuss how to take a leadership role to assist youth in working through the issues that come with being a part of the LGBTQ+ community. This workshop will provide LGBTQ+ youth with resources to navigate these issues and become a leader themselves.
Presenter: Ms. LLaria Pesco and CSUB Student panel
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- 10 WE ARE GAME:**
How junior high and high school student-athletes can balance sports and academics. Also, the transition from high school to college and college to the pros. What does it take to be successful? Education is your Plan B!
Presenters: Allen Thigpen, National Director, co-founded We are G.A.M.E
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