



2026 NATIONAL PAL YOUTH SUMMIT



ON THE RISE.
Explore what's next.

Ready to Rise: Explore What's Next

Youth Summit Agenda (*Subject to Change*)

The Youth Summit is intentionally designed as a leadership journey — helping young people strengthen connection, discover their voice, explore future pathways, and imagine themselves as leaders, changemakers, and community builders. Through interactive workshops, off-site experiences, storytelling, wellness activities, creative expression, and service-centered learning, each day builds upon the next to create an experience rooted in leadership, communication, curiosity, connection, and belonging.

TUESDAY, July 28 | THE BEGINNING

Theme: Connection & Belonging

Purpose: Help youth arrive, feel welcomed, build trust, and understand they are part of something bigger than themselves.

Afternoon & Evening

- Registration & Check-In
- Welcome Lounge / Music / Photo Moments
- Meet Your GRIT Groups
- Mentor & Youth Orientation
- Opening Connection Activities

WEDNESDAY, July 29 | FINDING YOUR VOICE

Theme: Leadership, Storytelling & Self-Discovery

Purpose: Help youth recognize their strengths, develop confidence, and understand that their voice, experiences, and ideas matter.

Morning

- Opening Ceremony & Youth-Led Kickoff
- Workshops on Communication, Leadership, Wellness & Creativity
- Storytelling & Team Building Activities

Afternoon

- DC Exploration Experiences
- Leadership Challenges & Reflection Activities

Evening

- Community Night Experiences
- Music, Games, Conversation & Connection

THURSDAY, July 30 | RISING INTO IMPACT

Theme: Service, Advocacy & Action

Purpose: Help youth apply their leadership through civic engagement, service, advocacy, creativity, and collaboration.

Morning

- Interactive Workshops & Leadership Labs
- Career Exploration & Youth Voice Sessions
- Leadership Through Service Experiences

Afternoon

- Capitol Hill Day / Civic Engagement Experience
- Advocacy Challenges & Leadership Activities
- Youth Content Creation & Storytelling Projects

Evening

- Celebration Dinner & Dance
- Recognition, Music & Shared Celebration
- Honoring the Leadership Journey Together

FRIDAY, July 31 | WHAT COMES NEXT

Theme: Reflection, Purpose & Carrying It Forward

Purpose: Help youth reflect on what they experienced, identify how they want to lead moving forward, and leave feeling empowered to create impact in their schools, communities, and future careers.

Morning

- Reflection Sessions & Story Circles
- Building “What’s Next” Action Plans
- Becoming a GRIT Ambassador
- Content Creation Labs
- Messages to First Responders Campaign

Midday

- “The Line We Leave” Closing Experience
Youth create messages of encouragement, gratitude, and hope for first responders, mentors, future youth leaders, and one another.

Closing Ceremony (will end by 4PM)

- Final Reflection
- GRIT Ambassador Commitment
- Looking Ahead

SATURDAY, August 1 | SEND-OFF

- Send-Off & Departures (noon checkout)