



Participation Packet for
Students and Parents

Youth Action Conference

hosted by
Niagara
University
April 30, 2026

LEADING WITH LOVE AND
DEFENDING JUSTICE!

- Do you want to be a leader in your school?
- Do you want to increase dialogue about race, equity, and issues in your school and your community?
- Do you want to meet new and diverse people?
- Do you want to have fun?

**Join us for an exciting conference at
Niagara University on April 30, 2026!**

Youth Action Conference

Who should attend?

Students in grades 6-12 who want to be leaders in their schools!

Why attend?

Your child was chosen because their school wants to grow their leadership skills.

When and where will the conference be held?

Date: Thursday, April 30, 2026

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (Check-In: 8:30-8:50 a.m.; 9:00 a.m. start; Dismissal at 1:00 p.m.)

Location: Niagara Falls Convention Center (101 Old Falls St, Niagara Falls, NY 14303)

What is the cost?

Free to all attendees!

Is there transportation?

Schools will provide transportation for their students.

Will there be food?

Yes. Lunch will be provided and is free for attendees.

Participation Forms: THREE FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL

1. Signed School District parent-signed permission slip
2. Signed Niagara University Student Participation form (2 pages)
3. Signed Niagara University Student Conduct form

Surveys

It is important for us to learn more about race and youth, so we will be asking parents to permit us to give a short pre and post-survey to attending students. We will need parents to complete an informed consent form, and students will need to complete an assent form. Students will complete their surveys upon arrival to and dismissal from the conference.

Where can I get more information?

Contact: Alicia Yamashita (Niagara University Ostapenko Center)

Email: ayamashita@niagara.edu

716-286-8520

Niagara University Student Participation Form



This form **MUST** be filled out in its entirety and signed where indicated by parent signature in order for your child to participate in the Youth Conference.

Please return this form to your school field trip coordinator. Please PRINT CLEARLY.

Personal Information

Student's first name _____ Last name _____ Birth date _____

Gender (please circle) M F Other

Any allergies that need to be relayed to the Niagara Falls Convention Center _____

Emergency Contact Person 1

Parent/Guardian first name _____ Last name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____ Cell phone _____

Email _____

Emergency Contact Person 2

Name _____ Relationship _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Niagara University will rely on school district personnel to be aware of and assist with any medical or disability needs, but please contact Rolanda Ward at 716-286-8520 or rward@niagara.edu with any concerns or needs.

Participation Release

By checking the box and signing below, you agree to allow your child to participate in the activities of the Youth Action Conference as described on these forms, including, but not limited to, the pre- and post-conference surveys to the conference. Participation in the surveys and conference activities is entirely optional.

- I will not hold Niagara University, Niagara University Ice Complex, Inc., its employees, or agents responsible for any injury or other harm that results from program participation.

Name of parent/guardian _____

Signature _____ Date _____

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Publicity Release

Students participating in the Youth Conference may have the opportunity to speak about their experience with the program to the media during in-school presentations and for other publicity-related events.

- I agree to allow my child to participate in publicity opportunities during the conference.
- I do NOT want my child to participate in publicity opportunities during the conference.

Name of parent/guardian _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Image Release

I, as his/her parent/guardian, hereby confer on Niagara University the absolute and irrevocable right and permission with respect to the images that it has authored or recorded of my minor child and the right to use my child's image, voice, and name in any and all media for purposes of promotion for the university and/or the program; and, to the fullest extent allowed by law, this authorization and release shall inure to the benefit of the legal representatives, licensees and assigns of Niagara University.

THIS IMAGE RELEASE IS NOT REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE.

Name of parent/guardian _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Niagara University Code of Conduct

Students participating in the youth conference will be expected to adhere to all University rules, regulations, and policies, including, but not limited to, the following:

Participation - Students are required to participate actively during the conference. Students are expected to participate in a respectful and cooperative manner and to be conscientious of ways in which their participation contributes to the overall learning environment.

Respect for Others - The NU community comprises people of different backgrounds and beliefs. Every effort is made to provide for the needs of all our students. Conduct that is disrespectful or in violation of the rights of others, including but not limited to verbal, physical, or sexual harassment and bias-related graffiti, will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action and sanctions, including possible dismissal from the program. Students are expected to respect all faculty, staff, and other students they come in contact with.

Illegal Substances - Possession, use, distribution, or being in the presence of alcohol and illegal drugs is not permitted. Violation of this policy is grounds for dismissal from the conference.

Smoking or Vaping - No smoking or vaping will be permitted on this trip.

Weapons - Dangerous weapons such as firearms, explosive materials, knives, or other weapons are strictly prohibited. These weapons will be confiscated, and students who possess them will be investigated. In addition, these students will be dismissed from the conference.

Disorderly Conduct - Tampering with fire or emergency equipment, unauthorized possession of master keys, or failure to comply with a reasonable request of school officials acting in performance with their duties are all contrary to school regulations. Students who have exhibited disregard for these and other school regulations will be dismissed from the conference.

Damage or Loss - Students are expected to respect the property of Niagara University. Students shall assume all financial responsibility for loss or damage they cause to the property of Niagara University and others. The damaged/lost property responsibility may include replacement, cleanup, and labor costs.

Failure to abide by the policies and procedures may result in disciplinary action, which may include a warning, probation, consultation with parents, or dismissal from the conference in the case of serious or repeated behavior problems. Financial obligations arising from dismissal from the program are the responsibility of the student and parents/guardians.

Please sign the consent form. Your signature indicates that you have read the policies listed above and that you agree to abide by them.

Student signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____
