

Step Up

LOUDOUN YOUTH COMPETITION



**Information Sessions
Welcome!**

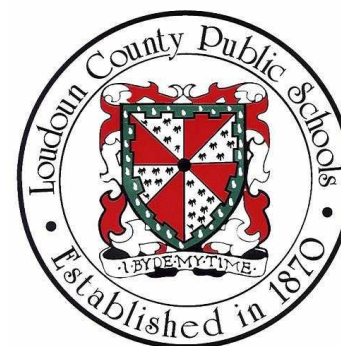
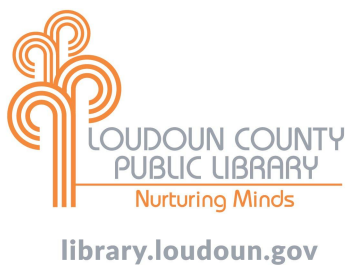
Step Up During COVID-19

- Loudoun Youth, Inc. encourages all participants to follow all public safety guidelines. Our primary goal is to protect the health and safety of our youth, staff and our Loudoun community.
- Please know and follow all local COVID-19 guidelines as indicated from the Loudoun County Health Department, Virginia Department of Health and the CDC.
- We will monitor the county Covid transmission rate and work the the Loudoun County Health Department to ensure a safe competition for all and reserve the right to alter the competition and will communicate such changes as they become necessary.
- And remember,
 - Wear your mask
 - Wash your hands
 - Maintain social distance

Presented by:



In Partnership with:



Youth Advisory Council



- The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is a ~~community-based~~ organization of highly motivated teens who reside in Loudoun County. As a leadership-development, community-service and civic-engagement program, mentoring is provided by PRCS Youth Initiative and Teen Services specialists.
- YAC hosts four committees with elected chairs who report to the elected YAC Board members. New members are welcome to join the following committees based on operational needs.
- **Programming:** Plan, organize and implement events (e.g., Battle of the Bands, LoCo ImprovFest, Step Up Loudoun Youth Competition).
- **Creative:** Maintain the YAC website and host public speaking events for teens.
- **Outreach:** Market YAC and events to the community and manage [YAC social media](#).
- **Policy & Activism:** Enhances involvement in leadership and community service opportunities throughout the county.
- YAC also serves as a recognized medium for presenting ideas and opinions of Loudoun County's youth to the community and its leaders. Elected YAC Board members sit on the Board of Supervisors-appointed Advisory Commission on Youth, ensuring that Loudoun's youth voice is heard by elected officials.
- If you have any questions or are interested in being apart of YAC please email yac@loudoun.gov

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO STEP UP?

The first Step Up was held in 2005 as a way to bring students and adults together in a dialogue that was believed to help identify the needs of the youth. We wanted to **LISTEN** to the youth and give them a **VOICE**.

In 2010, Step Up was transformed into a program that empowers the youth themselves to take positive and impactful actions to make their communities a better place to live, to get an education, and to play. Youth identify the issues that matter to them and they **TAKE ACTION** to create solutions!

WHY PARTICIPATE IN SULYC?

Make a Difference!!!

- Improve your communication, teamwork and presentation skills
- Gain knowledge and skills by responding to an authentic problem
- Feel good helping others in our community
- Make your voice heard by sharing your solutions to real world challenges

Win Prize Money!!!

- \$1000 for 1st
- \$750 for 2nd
- \$500 for 3rd





HOW DO YOU STEP UP?

- **Identify a topic important to you**
- **Research the topic to become educated about it**
- **Develop and implement an action plan or solution**
- **Attend an Information Session**
- **Practice and prepare a 5-minute video presentation**
- **Submit your project videos by March 3, 2022**
- **Attend the Main Competition on March 24, 2022 at the LCPS Admin Building**
- **The top 10 teams move to the Finals on April 7, 2022**



PERSONALIZE YOUR PROJECT

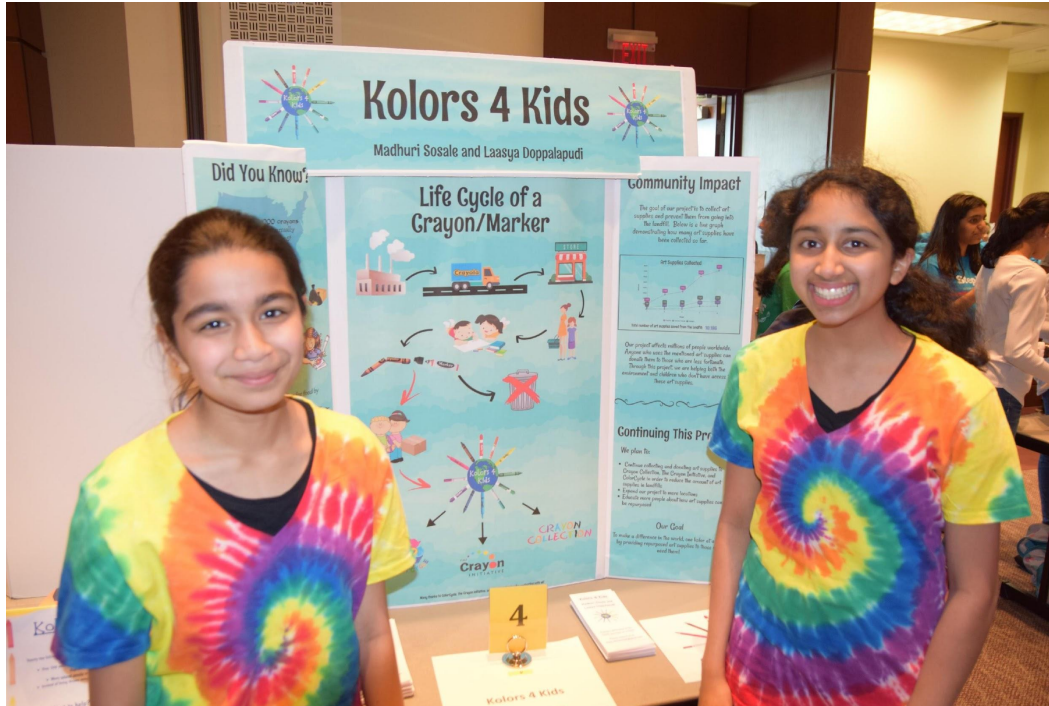
Identify an Issue:

- What's important to you?
- What problem do you see that YOU can address?
- What are you passionate about?

Develop an Action Plan:

- How will YOU Make a Difference?
- Plan an Event
- Raise Awareness
- Hold a Fundraiser
- Start a Club at Your School

WHAT IS A TEAM?



You can work:

- **Alone**
- **With a friend**
- **With a group of friends**
- **With your whole class**
- **Be on a team with people who are passionate about the topic**
- **Each person needs to register as a team member**

WHAT DOES THE COMPETITION LOOK LIKE?

It's kind of like a science fair!



Judging

Four components are tallied:

1. Issue Analysis
2. Solution Quality
3. Community Impact
4. Presentation



Step Up Loudoun Youth Competition 2022

ISSUE ANALYSIS

Investigate

Investigate why the problem happens – the root cause

Analyze

Analyze how it impacts your school or community

Discover

Find out if people have tried to solve this problem before – what roadblocks did they run into?



SOLUTION QUALITY

- Create a detailed solution (who? what? when? where? how?)
- Connect the solution to the problem – does it really address the issue?
- Collect data to show how your solution is making/will make an impact on your community

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- **Evaluate your action plan:**
 - **How many people did you impact?**
 - **How did you impact them?**
 - **What are your future plans for your project?**
 - **What's your WHY? Be PASSIONATE!**
- **Example: Bent But Not Broken**
 - **Alexis (6th grader) raised awareness of scoliosis**
 - **She met with doctors and created a scoliosis screening worksheet**
 - **She presented to the Loudoun County School Board to advocate for screening in all LCPS middle school clinics**
 - **Her why: Her sister was diagnosed with scoliosis at a later age and had to undergo painful surgery and recovery**



PRESENTATION

1

Remember who your audience is and what they might already know (or don't know!).

2

Be specific – go through the important details that shaped your project.

3

Share your passion!
Get the audience excited about your project.

Brayden's Buds

2021 Step Up Loudoun Youth Competition - Second Place

BRAYDEN'S
BUDS

Helping
Pediatric
Patients AND
Siblings



The Virtual Step Up Process:

- Create a 3-5 minute video. You can use software like Be.live, or depending on your technical skills, use other services like Adobe Spark, FlipaClip.
- Upload your video to YouTube, *unlisted*
Instructions will be sent to all participating teams
- Submit a Google Form containing your group information and the URL of your *unlisted* YouTube video.
- Complete your Impact Surveys
- ***You will not be judged on your video editing skills, as long as your idea is conveyed across to the judges.***
- Watch your email for more information and suggestions on how best to achieve these goals.

What else should I know?



**GOOD IDEA?
NEED FUNDING?**

Forward Turn
GRANTS FOR YOUTH-LED PROJECTS

APPLY FOR A GRANT
TO FUND YOUR
CHARITABLE IDEA

APPLICATIONS DUE
FEBRUARY 4, 2022
5:00 PM

LEARN MORE AND APPLY:
[COMMUNITYFOUNDATIONLF.ORG/GRANT-SEEKERS](https://communityfoundationlf.org/grant-seekers)

Forward Turn is a partnership between the Loudoun Youth Advisory Council and the Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties

Loudoun County Public Library



SAMUEL.MULL@LOUDOUN.GOV

**When do you Step Up?
Submit your video by**

March 3, 2022

**Judging will virtually take place between March 4-11 with the
Top 20 Teams announced on or about March 14, 2022**

**Main Competition
March 24, 2022**

**Zoom Finals and Awards
April 7, 2022**



Thank our sponsors

Cash Prizes from REI Systems, Sterling VA



Program Sponsors include:





QUESTIONS?

Contact Steve Wolfson, Executive Director

swolfson@loudounyouth.org

703-431-1033





**WHAT YOU DO
MAKES A
DIFFERENCE,
AND YOU HAVE
TO DECIDE
WHAT KIND OF
DIFFERENCE
YOU WANT TO
MAKE.**

-JANE GOODALL



Additional Programs

Battle of the Bands

- Youth bands and soloist performers compete in battles for prizes and the opportunity to play on stage at the Tally Ho.

Loudoun Youth Leadership Program

- Week-long summer leadership program for rising 10 – 12 graders.

Claude Moore Community Builders

- CMCB is a ten-month volunteer and leadership training program for high school aged students, running from June – March each year. Applications open in mid-March.

Learn more about our programs at www.loudounyouth.org