

Get Involved!

Statewide Opportunities for Youth with Disabilities

Looking for ways to use your leadership and self-advocacy skills?
Here's what's going down in Wisconsin for you to **get involved**.

WI Youth First Website!

www.wiyouthfirst.org

Wisconsin Youth First is a unique website developed by youth, for youth! This website was created so youth could get together and keep in touch, about school, work, and leadership activities. This website is where kids from all over the state can be leaders, get information, and get involved! We hope you enjoy our place on the internet and we want you to visit often and have fun! Website features: calendar of youth activities, your own YouTube Channel, information on working, college, relationships, and much more. Visit us on Facebook, too. Families and professionals will also find the site useful for finding information geared toward youth.

How can you participate? To keep this website fresh and unique we need lots of input from youth. Please send us your ideas, web links, cool videos, etc. Come back often for new info!

For more info, contact us at wiyouthfirst@gmail.com

WI Statewide Community on Transition

Transition leaders from across the state get together 3 times a year to talk about how to make things better for youth with disabilities who are transitioning to adulthood. The group welcomes youth at the meeting so you can share your experiences to make things easier for other people with disabilities.

How can you participate? Attend a meeting or give your ideas to a youth who can share them with the group if you can't go. Join one, or more, Practice Groups, which typically meet by phone. Meeting times are based on what works for the members.

For more info, contact Linda Maitrejean lindam@cesa11.k12.wi.us

For more info on practice groups contact group facilitators:

Youth Development & Leadership:	Cheryl Schiltz	cheryls@ilcw.org
Parents & Families:	Sherry Gundlach	sgundlac@cesa6.k12.wi.us
Health:	Amy Whitehead	amy.whitehead@dhs.wisconsin.gov
Post Secondary Education:	Elizabeth Watson	watsone@uww.edu
	Sandy Hall	matcmadison.edu
Data:	Mary Kampa	maryk@cesa11.k12.wi.us

WI Youth First
Website

WI Statewide
Community on
Transition

WI Youth
Leadership Forum
(YLF)

Statewide Youth
Speakers Bureau

YiPPE! Youth in
Partnership
with Parents
for Empowerment

A Gathering
of Youth
Conference

Peer Power

Midwest Alliance
in STEM

Get Involved!

Wisconsin Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)

The YLF is a week long leadership training program for high school students with disabilities who are motivated and active in their schools and communities. Sharpen your leadership skills and become a recognized leader in our state.

Applications are available in late fall - check with your school - or at www.wiyouthfirst.org/get_involved.html

How can you participate? Apply! (The YLF is a competitive process)

For more info, contact Joe Mielczarek at (715) 573-2671 or mielczarj@yahoo.com

Statewide Youth Speakers Bureau

This is a list of youth from all over Wisconsin who are interested in speaking at a variety of events like conferences, meetings, and college classes about your experiences as a youth or young adult with a disability.

How can you participate? Sign up and tell your story.

For more info or to sign up, contact the WI Youth First group at wiyouthfirst@gmail.com or apply online at www.wiyouthfirst.org/speakers_bureau.html

YIPPE!

Youth in Partnership with Parents for Empowerment

An opportunity for youth, ages 15-20, and their parents to talk about and plan for what comes after high school over 5 weekends. You'll do hands on, fun activities to help you prepare for life after high school while your parents hear from speakers from all over the state. You'll also do fun stuff like go to water parks and make cool friends. New sessions start in the fall each year.

How can you participate? Ask for more information, tell your parents and sign up! Brochures are available at www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/par_partn.html

For more info, contact Jenny Neugart (608) 266-8778 or jennifer.neugart@wisconsin.gov

Leadership

Self-
advocacy

Youth

Relationships

Community

Transition

Independence

Peers

Involvement

Empower

Education

Get Involved!

A Gathering of Youth Conference

A conference just for you! A Gathering of Youth runs alongside the Circles of Life main conference with one major difference - only youth are allowed to attend these sessions. The conference is planned by youth, for youth.

How can you participate? Attend the conference or join the planning committee. All planning is done over the phone so youth from anywhere in the state can participate.

For more info, contact Kirsten Engel (608) 242-8484 or kirstene@accesstoinc.org

Peer Power

Peer Power helps you become better prepared to transition to adult life by giving you an opportunity to meet other youth who are going through the same things you are. By sharing knowledge, skills and support a Peer Power group gives you the time you need to absorb information and to practice skills so you can use the information to plan for your future, all with the help of your peers. Peer Power gives you an opportunity to develop a sense of personal power by allowing you to express yourself and talk about your ideas and goals.

How can you participate? Join a Peer Power group in your area or become a mentor for other youth.

For more info, contact Cheryl Schlitz (608) 256-9257, toll free (866) 656-4010 or cheryls@ilcw.org, or <http://peerpower.il-wisconsin.net>

The Midwest Alliance in STEM

Are you or someone you know a 9-12th grade or college or university student with a disability who is looking to be successful in achieving a college degree and career? Would you like to develop the skills that are necessary to flourish in your academic and professional life? The Midwest Alliance strives to increase the involvement and level of success of students with disabilities completing postsecondary degrees, and entering careers in social science, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields and programs.

How can you participate? There are many ways in which we help students with disabilities pursue their academic and career goals: One-on-one Mentoring Placements, Internship Searches and Placement Support, Enrichment Camps, Special Events, and STEM Exploration.

For more info, visit www.stemmidwest.org or contact our Outreach Coordinator, Dan Nordstrom (608) 890-0992 or dnordstrom@wisc.edu

Employment

Influence

Self-confidence

Partnership

Motivate

Change

Participate

Public Speaking

Opportunity

Mentor

Knowledge



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