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DISCOVER YOUR STRENGTH

Youth Institute

AGES: Youth Entering Grades 9-12
in Fall 2025

WHEN: June 30 - August 16
Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm

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WHATCOM FAMILY YMCA
1256 N State St, Bellingham, WA, 98225
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Youth Institute is a nationally recognized 7 week summer program that focuses on youth development, character development, social & emotional support, technology skill building, leadership, service learning, and college and job readiness.

Our project and product based learning methods encourage peer-to-peer collaboration, community involvement, and opportunities to develop leadership skills. We want to support all in developing and achieving their personal goals.



"It's super nice having someone I can relate to in the staff this year."
- YI Graduate

Helping to build dimensions of well-being with:

ACHIEVEMENT

- To help youth accomplish their passions, talents, and potential.

RELATIONSHIPS

- To determine the role positive relationships play in the well-being of youth.

BELONGING

- Where youth feel safe, respected, and can express their individuality.

Applications Due APRIL 1

Summer 2025 Applications can be found online, at the Y, or in your school counseling office.

Successful applications will be followed up with a brief interview.



**SCAN FOR
APPLICATION
& HANDBOOK**



Youth Institute: At a Glance

Wilderness Retreat: During an overnight retreat, students will focus on team building, bonding, and decision making skills while connecting with nature.

Technology Projects: Using platforms like Photoshop, Canva, and PremierePRO, students will create videos, magazines and more with their teams.

Career Connection: Students will engage in college readiness activities through goal setting, guest speakers and campus tours.

Graduation: The program will culminate with a film festival and graduation during the 7th week.



General Program Info:

- YI is provided at no cost to the participant.
- Lunches and snacks provided daily.
- Academic Credit (Amount dependent on school district).
- Potential for transportation assistance.
- FREE YMCA Membership while attending the YI program.
- Upon successful completion of the YI Program, graduates receive up to \$500 in cash stipend.



Required Meetings

May 7 | Alumni Meeting (Required)

May 14 | New Participant Info Session
Required for students & parents/guardians,
optional for alumni.

June 4 | Wilderness Retreat Info Session
Required for ALL students, parents/guardians
encouraged to attend.

See website for complete list of important dates!

*"I'm looking forward to seeing the
different ways each and every person
has flourished."
-YI Graduate*



PROGRAM LOCATION

Youth Institute will be held at the
Whatcom Family YMCA located at 1256
N State St, Bellingham, WA, 98225

PROGRAM HOURS

Monday through Friday, 10am to 4pm.*

*The first week of YI will be our Wilderness Retreat
where we will be camping Monday-Friday.
Participants will be dropped off at the Y on
Monday and return to the Y on Friday for pick up.