

Youth Engagement Opportunities Colorado Youth Awareness Week (September 7-11)

Purpose: The purpose of Youth Awareness Week is to emphasize positive youth voice and to celebrate the influence youth have in our state and local communities. And to recognize the various organizations and advocates which involve Colorado’s youth and help guide them towards positive life choices and stability.

Note: Any event in Purple is only for youth in the Restorative Justice (RJ) system

<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday September 7 “Kickoff” Wear Purple</p> <p>Note: Event in Purple is <u>only</u> for youth in the Restorative Justice (RJ) system</p>	<p>8:15-9:15 AM Opening Proclamation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Google Meet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Video call link: https://meet.google.com/wpa-vwpw-atm ○ Or dial: (US) +1 336-864-1007 PIN: 441 517 168# <p>4-5:30 PM Burning Wall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hosted by Project Foster Power (PFP); see below for more information on this agency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Share your ideas and collaborate with PFP to take action ● Museum of Nature and Science in City Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2001 N. Colorado Blvd., Denver, CO 80205 <p>5-6 PM Community Service Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hosted by Matthew’s House <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 North Mason Court #1, Fort Collins, Colorado 80524 <p>6-7 PM Chalk Art</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hosted by Matthew’s House <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 North Mason Court #1, Fort Collins, Colorado 80524 <p>Virtual Keynote Speaker (facilitated by Liz)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Select youth from CALM ● Jamole Callahan
<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday September 8</p>	<p>10 AM Chalk Art</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Urban Peak <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1630 S Acoma St., Denver, CO 80210

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<p>Thursday September 9</p>	<p>10 AM Youth Voice Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hosted by OCR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Office of the Child’s Representative (OCR) is the state agency that oversees and supports GALs (who decide and fight for the best interests of youth) and counsel for youth (who fight for what youth want in their cases). ○ Please check out this session to chat about how you can become a lawyer for youth, the resources OCR has for youth, the ways OCR elevates youth voice, and Colorado’s new Foster Youth in Transition Program (which gives foster youth a greater voice and choice about their lives)! ● Zoom Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Video Call link: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89615743732?pwd=WW9mMDh4YWh5bEgvWS95MDZRRUVidz09 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Meeting ID: 896 1574 3732 ■ Passcode: 590446 ○ Or Dial (same meeting ID and Passcode as above): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ +1 669 900 6833 US

3 PM Virtual Statewide Town Hall with a youth panel for youth and professionals

- The Office of Behavioral Health - COACT Project Director, Chris Meyer, will facilitate a Town Hall focused on Mental Health and Wellness from our Youth's perspective on: Mental Health Stigma, Crisis Services & Response, Equity & Inclusion .
- This Town Hall will include a group of Youth Panelists and a Family Support Partner providing services in Southwest Colorado.
- Please join us for what will be a rich discussion and unique perspective:
 - <https://meet.google.com/sss-nchg-aht>
 - Or dial: (US) +1 385-999-6265 PIN: 286 800 373#

4 PM Foster Think Tank

- Hosted by Foster Great Ideas
- Youth are Leaders
 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86919432812>

**Friday
September 10**

10:45- Noon Chalk Art - Pueblo

- CSU Campus- CSU Student Center
 - 2200 Bonforte Blvd. Pueblo, CO 81001

1-2 PM Speak Up Workshop

- Hosted by Foster Great Ideas (FGI)
 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85400003887>

2-3 PM Metro Youth Alliance (MYA)

- Introduction to MYA
- Youth Community Organizing
 - Please contact Mary Davis for the link
 - mdavis@shilohhouse.net

Social Media Challenge

- Clean up your community
 - Pick a public space to clean or collect recyclable items, take a before and after photo/video and post on social media
 - Don't forget to tag: #CoYAW21

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<p>Other Opportunities:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Join your local youth leadership network: For more information contact the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Metro Youth Alliance (MYA) - Mary Davis 720-324-0394 OR metroyouthalliance@gmail.com ○ Project Foster Power - Jordyn Gendel 720-691-5901 OR projectfosterpower@childlawcenter.org ○ Speak Up - Tori Shuler @ 303-549-3765 OR tori.shuler@fgi4kids.org ○ Matthew's House- Mark Burke- mark@thematthewshouse.org ○ Colorado Office of the Child Representative (OCR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lived Experts Action Panel (LEAP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cara Nord- 303-860-1517 ext 110 OR caranord@coloradochildrep.org ● Alexis Perry Scott- 720-445-5482 OR aperryscott@coloradochildrep.org ● Throughout the week we challenge you to think about what YAW means to you. Feel free to share your ideas at any of the events you choose to attend.
<p>Resources:</p>	<p>Youth Specific Resources: Youth Specific Resources - Colorado Child Welfare Training System (coloradocwts.com)</p> <p>Youth Center through OCR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● https://coloradochildrep.org/youth-center/youth/ <p>Project Foster Power (PFP)</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• a group of current and former foster youth, ages 15 to 25+, who are using our voices and experiences to improve the Colorado child welfare system through youth-led organizing and advocacy• Each campaign, PFP follows a Youth Action Cycle that allows us to listen directly to youth members across the state, identify a shared issue, develop a plan, and work to create change through collective action <p>If you are between the ages of 18-26 and are interested in re-entry OR are just in need of services please email us at: cdhs_fosteryouth@state.co.us to get connected to resources near you</p>
Why it Matters:	<p><u>Tuesday - September 7 (Kickoff)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purple - Youth Awareness Week's color should be purple because the color represents: independence, creativity, pride, peace, and ambition. We believe this reflects the lives of children." - Project Foster Power