



# YOUTH & PEACE IN ACTION<sup>SM</sup>

ENGAGING YOUNG COMMUNITY PEACEBUILDERS

## Guide to YPA 2023-24



Hello,

There are three billion people in the world under the age of 30. Many are eager to make a difference, including as peacebuilders. The gap between aspiration and reality lies in a lack of access to support for peace education. That's one conclusion of the United Nations report *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*. The report drew on input from 4,000 young people and research across 44 countries.

In 2014, NewGen Peacebuilders<sup>SM</sup> launched with a mission to “*make learning to be a peacebuilder a rite of passage for everyone.*” The motto is . . .

*Build Peace. Repeat the Peace.*<sup>SM</sup>

In the subsequent eight years, thousands of young people ages 14 to 24 have become certified peacebuilders after completing learning journeys and developing peace projects.

In 2021, a new and exciting initiative called Youth & Peace in Action (YPA) was introduced. YPA, powered by NewGen Peacebuilders, integrates live, virtual education, training and mentoring with an Online Peace Platform.

Research shows that teaching peace in classrooms and providing education, training, and mentoring in extra-curricular settings – including supporting peace project experiences in student clubs – is essential to build cultures of peace. YPA make it easy for educators and students to:

- Understand drivers of conflict and peace
- Imagine innovative solutions to create change
- Build bridges for the rest of their lives

When your school or club signs up, we encourage you to share this opportunity with any and all teachers and students who might be interested to join in.



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**Thank you for collaborating in the development of a new generation of peacebuilders!**

This guide provides an overview of Youth & Peace in Action (YPA). Additional resources are available through the **Online Peace Platform in a YPA Toolkit for Teachers and Advisors**. The toolkit includes downloadable activities, discussion guides, and PowerPoint slides that align with My Peacebuilder Foundations (MPF) course modules; the Leading Peace Project Teams Experience (LPPT); and promotional materials to recruit and sign up students for either MPF or LPPT, or both.

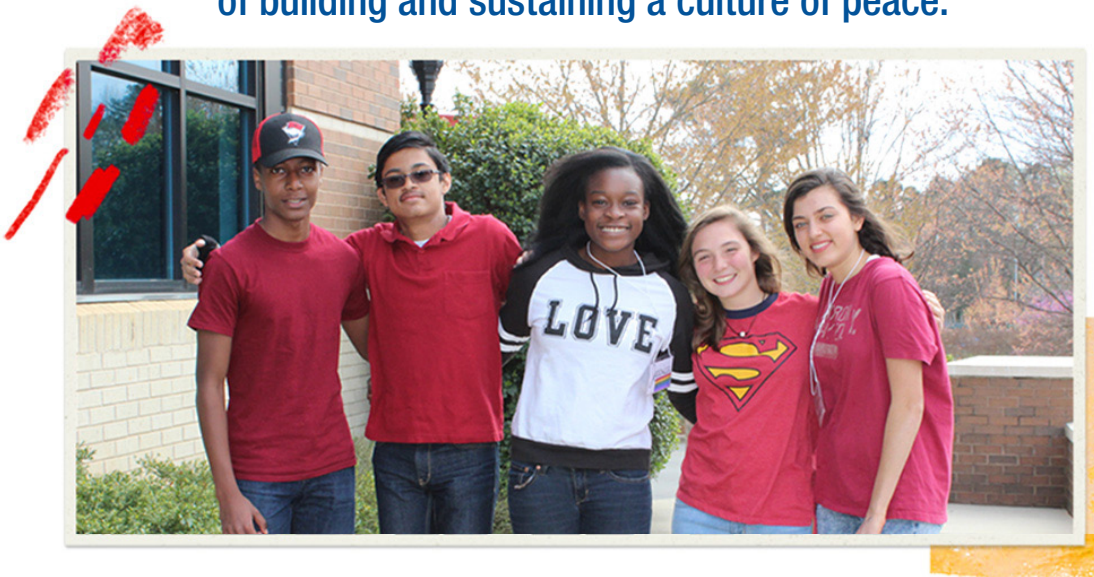
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## YPA Team

The Youth & Peace in Action team has extensive experience in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, leadership development, and innovations in youth-focused education.



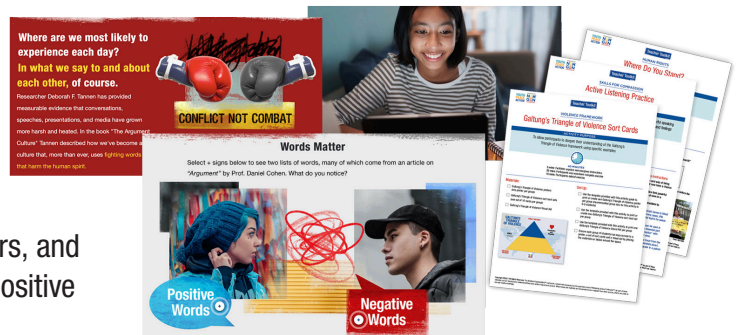
Youth & Peace in Action (YPA) puts young people at the center of building and sustaining a culture of peace.



## Overview

YPA is the largest youth peacebuilding initiative in the US and Caribbean. It's supported by an innovative online peace education platform with two interactive programs.

The “Leading Peace Project Teams” live, virtual training experience is available to Interact and other clubs through sponsorship of \$500 per youth-led project. A related “My Peacebuilder Foundations” online certification accompanied by a teacher toolkit is distributed to schools at no cost. Teachers, club advisors, and Rotarians who are familiar with the content are VERY positive in their feedback.



To access resources, visit the YPA 2022-23 Teacher and Club Advisor Toolkit in the YPA Online Peace Platform.



Students, teachers, community supporters enrolled



Hours of peace learning and project design completed



Peace projects initiated



Peacebuilders certified



Teacher toolkits distributed

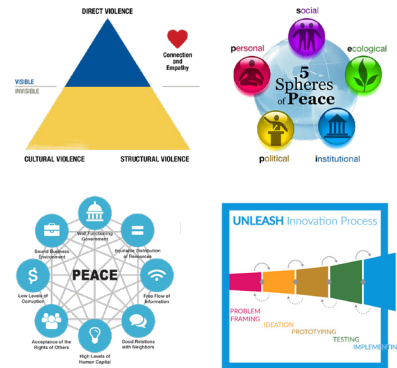
Peace education, training, and mentoring content, resources, and experiences that underpin YPA have been “road tested” and evaluated in workshops, dialogues, and peace project implementations by NewGen Peacebuilders (NGP) since 2014. NGP and YPA have been recognized by the Alliance for Peacebuilding, Institute for Economics & Peace, and with a national award for excellence in US Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding.

*Build Peace. Repeat the Peace.<sup>SM</sup>*

# Benefits for Students, Teachers, Communities

## Access to Peacebuilding Frameworks and Tools

Through YPA, teachers and students learn to use established frameworks to consider how power, conflict, violence, and peace intersect. Among these are four well-known tools for conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and project development: Galtung’s Triangle of Violence to distinguish different types of violence; 5 Spheres of Peace to examine right relationships; Eight Pillars of Peace to understand systemic drivers of conflict and peace; and the UNLEASH Innovation Process.



## Certification and Service Hours

Students who complete the My Peacebuilder Foundations online course receive certification as NewGen Peacebuilders. Students who complete the Leading Peace Project Teams training and mentoring experience also learn management skills and receive additional certification. Educators in schools and clubs that participate in YPA can access Professional Development opportunities and certification.



## Awards and Recognition

YPA alumni become part of a network of young peacebuilders with access to additional academic and internship opportunities. Many have received local, national, and international awards, recognition, and scholarships. Participating schools, clubs and organizations are recognized in a year-end YOUNited celebration. Select peace project teams are profiled, and YPA Peace Educators of the Year are announced.



## Impactful Peace Projects

Students come to understand the root causes and visible effects of conflict in their communities and develop peace projects to address issues in one or more of 10 categories.

**Hunger**

**Gun Violence**

**Environment**

**Tolerance**

# Service Projects vs. Peace Projects

## A Service Project . . .

... makes a positive difference



... creates a sense of being a good neighbor or citizen



... is delivered to help meet the resource needs of a person, people, or community



... can create bonds



... tends to address needs in ways that are visible in a moment or moments



... can take place in a few hours, for instance on a "service day."



## A Peace Project . . .

... is a focused effort to **alter a conflict or experience of violence**

... can be of service, but it goes further in an attempt to create an **innovative and sustainable solution** to a problem that fuels violence or conflict

... is a creative endeavor that **involves those being served** in collaboration for change

... is an **intentional attempt to overcome misunderstanding and build bridges** of insight across different perspectives and experiences

... starts by analyzing **drivers of a conflict or violence** and incorporates **SMART goals** in a plan for action

... involves planning and preparation with a **specific start date and end date**. A good project can live on and turn into a program or initiative if the project evaluation shows benefits.

## General FAQs

### Who can sign up for YPA? Who has content access once a school or club signs up?

Any high school in the United States and certain parts of the southern Caribbean can sign up for Youth & Peace in Action (YPA). In 2023-24, the My Peacebuilder Foundations (MPF) online course is available at no cost (Free) for up to 1,000 high schools thanks to sponsorship support provided to YPA. When a high school principal, teacher, or club advisor signs up for MPF, the online course content and related classroom discussion materials are available to any teachers and interested students in the school. Leading Peace Project Teams (LPPT) from YPA trains and mentors students in Interact and other youth clubs to imagine, design, and develop peace projects. Training and support for each project is \$500. This can be funded by a school, youth club, or Rotary Club. The YPA team helps coordinate sponsorship requests.

### What organization is behind Youth & Peace in Action (YPA)?

YPA is a peace education, training, and mentoring initiative powered by US-headquartered nonprofit NewGen Peacebuilders (NGP), which was established in 2014. In the nine years since, NGP has certified more than 6,000 young peacebuilders, primarily at the high school and university levels. YPA is an expansion that provides an Online Peace Platform with certifications, a guide and online toolkit for teachers and club advisers with materials that can be used in a classroom setting, and Professional Development opportunities. YPA officially launched in 2021 with sponsorship from Districts and Clubs in Rotary Zones 33 & 34, and collaboration from the Alliance for Peacebuilding and the Institute for Economics & Peace.

### What experience does YPA have working with schools, teachers, and student clubs?

YPA builds on NewGen Peacebuilders (NGP) experiences bringing peace education, training, mentoring, and professional development to schools, teachers, and student clubs since 2014. From September 2021 through June 2022, YPA has or

will have enrolled 8,000 students, teachers, and community supporters; delivered over 70,000 hours of peace education and mentoring; initiated almost 100 student-led peace projects; certified 2,250 young peacebuilders; and distributed over 1,000 peace education toolkits to teachers.

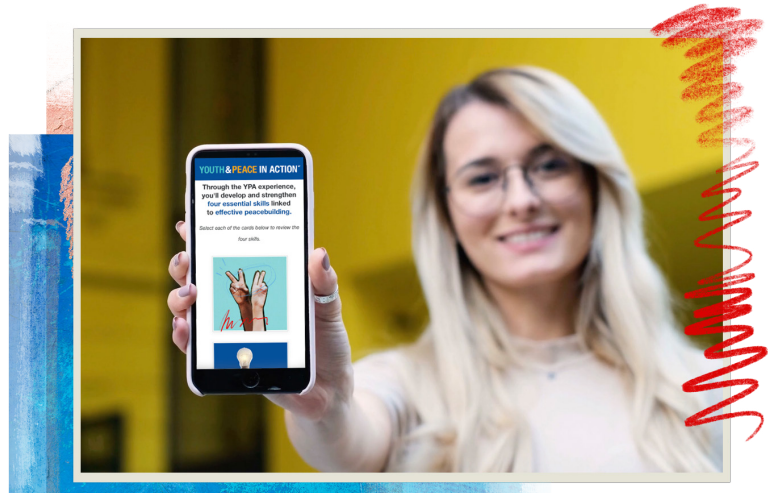
YPA has an advisory council of administrators, teachers, and student ambassadors who provide continuous feedback on improvements, new curriculum, and training needs. This is supplemented with survey-based monitoring and evaluation tools used by YPA.

### Does a school need District or other school system approval to participate in YPA?

Generally, speaking, no. The My Peacebuilder Foundations (MPF) online course is not presented as official curricular content. MPF is considered supplemental education for which a principal and or teachers can choose to add and use to strengthen student learning and classroom activities. The Leading Peace Project Teams (LPPT) experience is an online content, training, and mentoring experience that club advisers and students can choose to participate in when they decide it supports club learning, service, and project goals.

### What is the value and benefit of NewGen Peacebuilders certification?

The My Peacebuilder Foundations online course and certification within YPA is available at no cost (free) for up to 1,000 high schools. The cost of \$500 for each Leading Peace Projects Team experience is often funded by local community sponsors. The benefits for teachers, students, and communities include: access to peacebuilding frameworks and tools; certification and service hours for students; awards and recognition for students, teachers, and club advisers; and impactful peace project ideas and implementation in communities. MPF and LPPT certifications can be listed on resumes, CVs, and university/college applications. Many certified peacebuilders qualify for further awards, scholarships, and internships.



## Summary

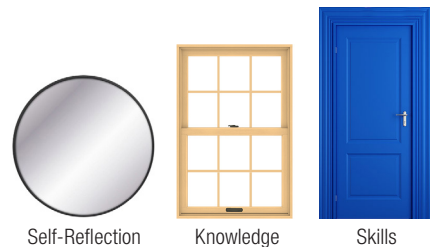
In the My Peacebuilder Foundations (MPF) course students explore definitions of peace, come to understand key drivers of conflict and peace, and envision the role of young people in creating peaceful and resilient communities.

Assessments after each module ensure that students who complete the course receive a certificate from NewGen Peacebuilders and Youth & Peace in Action. Estimated course completion time is 10 hours.



## 7H Framework

The course is delivered through a series of online modules that leverage the NewGen Peacebuilders 7H Framework. Each module takes 60-90 minutes to complete, and is divided into sections that can be completed in 30 minutes or less (ideal for class settings).



Every module involves **Self-Reflection** activities, **Gaining New Knowledge**, and **Interactive Exercises**.

The course's interactive tools include Padlets, Mentimeters, matching and sort card knowledge checks, tips and reflections from YPA alumni guides, and peace project case studies.







## 7H Framework: Fundamentals of Power, Conflict, Violence and Peace

Students reflect on their beliefs and values related to peacebuilding, and the difference young people can make in school, communities, and the broader world. Assessments are included at the end of each module and after completion of all modules.

<p><b>1</b> Hello</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Role of young people as essential peacebuilders</li> </ul>
<p><b>2</b> Hope</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Reflections on whether the world has become more peaceful</li> <li>■ Distinctions between service and peace projects as a process for positive change</li> </ul>
<p><b>3</b> Harm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Broad perspectives on what constitutes “harm”</li> </ul>
<p><b>4</b> Healing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Connections between universal ideals of human rights and peace</li> </ul>
<p><b>5</b> Heart</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Distinctions between pity, sympathy, empathy, altruism and compassion</li> <li>■ Essential “ways of being” including active listening, focusing, self-awareness, and emotional management</li> </ul>
<p><b>6</b> Head</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Personal “triggers” that get in the way of peacebuilding</li> <li>■ Indexes of global peace, positive peace, human development, happiness, and more</li> </ul>
<p><b>7</b> Hands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Problem framing and idea development for effective peace projects</li> </ul>



1. ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOODS
2. BOOST HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
3. BRIDGE THE DIVIDES
4. BRING HUMANITY TO HOMELESSNESS
5. CONNECT COMMUNITIES
6. ENGAGE WITH THE WORLD
7. FOCUS ON THE ENVIRONMENT
8. PUTTING SAFETY FIRST
9. SHAPE SCHOOL CULTURE
10. WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS



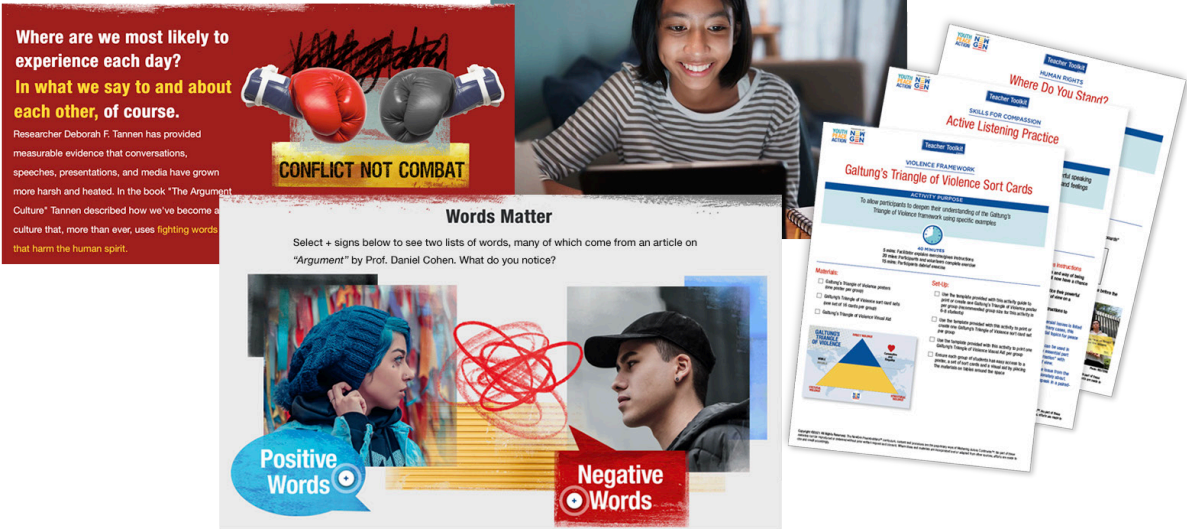
## Summary

Leading Peace Project Teams (LPPT) from YPA trains and mentors students in Interact and other youth clubs to imagine, design, and develop peace projects. An online catalogue features 50+ inspiring youth-led peace projects.

**From 1 to 10 students in an Interact or other youth club can register to create a project.**

LPPT includes a short online introduction to peace project fundamentals and a live interactive virtual training experience. Coaches/mentors provide feedback on peace project ideas. Students who complete LPPT become certified NewGen Peacebuilders<sup>SM</sup> and often qualify for service hours, awards, recognition, and scholarships.





## Materials to Support MPF In-Classroom Activities, Conversations

The My Peacebuilder Foundations online content is designed so that individual students can sign up, complete the course independently in approximately 10 hours, and become certified. However, many teachers have expressed that they would like students to complete the course in a group or class guided by the teacher. Also, teachers have noted the relevance of YPA to a variety of subjects including English, Social Studies/US History, World Languages, Leadership Academies, and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). To help, the YPA Online Peace Platform Toolkit provides a variety of materials for use by teachers, including:

- Course-at-a-Glance
- Content Crosswalks
- Slides
- Downloadable Activity Guides (PDFs)
- Suggested Class Activities and Discussion Prompts
- Downloadable “Manipulatives” for Hands-on Exercises
- Social Media Graphics and Videos



The MPF course and accompanying Toolkit resources are *Free* for all students and teachers in 1,000 high schools.



Training and support for each project designed through the Leading Peace Project Teams experience is \$500. This can be funded by a school, youth club, or Rotary Club. The YPA team helps coordinate sponsorship requests. Email: [info@youthpeaceaction.org](mailto:info@youthpeaceaction.org)



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PEACE  
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POWERED BY  
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