

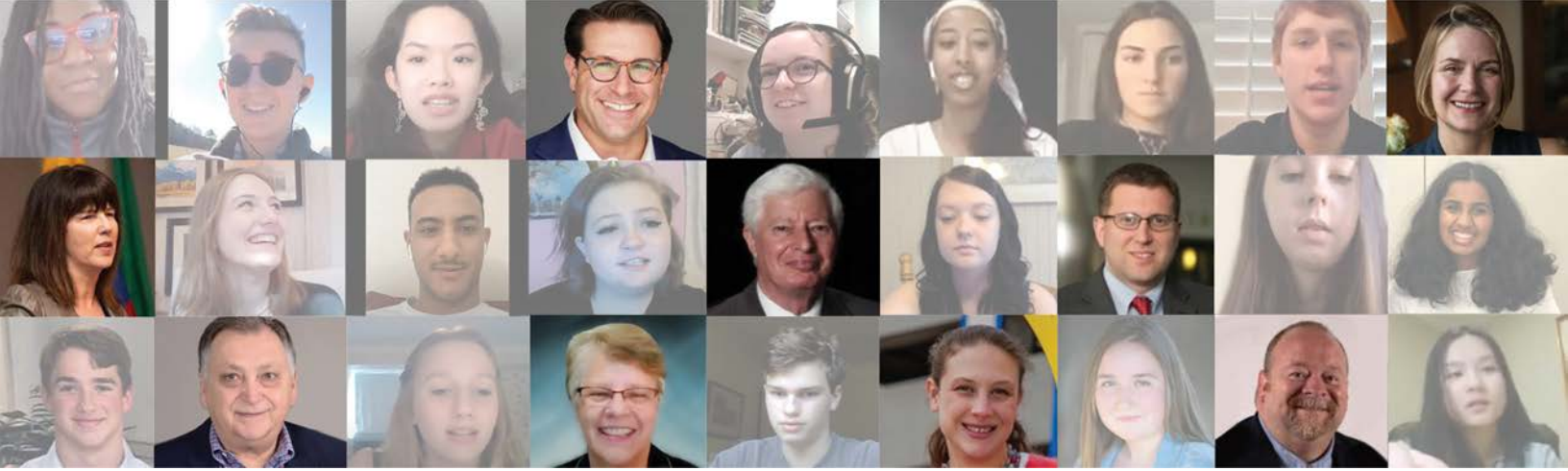


**YOUTH & PEACE IN ACTION**<sup>SM</sup>  
ENGAGING YOUNG COMMUNITY PEACEBUILDERS

# Overview: YPA Content and Experience

High Schools and Youth Service Clubs / Organizations  
Application Acceptance Deadline: Sept. 10th  
[tinyurl.com/YPA-Apply](https://tinyurl.com/YPA-Apply)

**2021-22**



Hello,

Welcome to “Youth & Peace in Action: Engaging Young Community Peacebuilders” – sometimes called “YPA.”

I hope that you find this overview helpful. The YPA initiative is an innovative and exciting way to support young people in the pivotal high school age range of 14 to 18.

Many of the world’s most recognized peace leaders and scholars have pointed to the potential of young people as peacebuilders. I agree.

Today’s young people are aware of and want to help address challenging local, regional, national and international issues. Yet, peacebuilding resources are generally not available to them. So, we must work together to fill the gap.

*“In classes we learn about the violence and not to repeat the wars, but we never learn about how to repeat the peace.”*

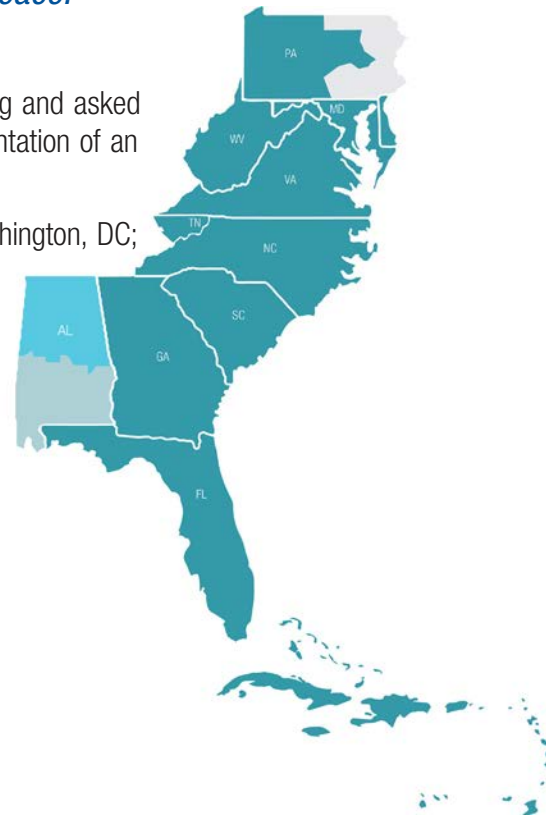
– Lexy Bateman

In 2020, I outlined a commitment of Rotary Zones 33 & 34 to youth peacebuilding and asked NewGen Peacebuilders<sup>SM</sup> and Outward Bound Peacebuilding to guide the implementation of an initiative that evolved into YPA.

Rotary District and Club leaders across the Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern US; Washington, DC; and the Caribbean offered financial and volunteer support. I was delighted when Rotary District 6860 in North and Central Alabama also joined in.

YPA is a unique contribution toward equipping young people to be at the center of building and sustaining a culture of peace.

**Please spread the word about this bold initiative. Thanks to broad collaboration, access to YPA is FREE for high schools and youth service clubs/organizations that join in before things get underway on International Peace Day!**



**Peter Kyle**  
Rotary International Director (RID) 2020-22  
Rotary Zones 33 & 34



[info@youthpeaceaction.org](mailto:info@youthpeaceaction.org) | [www.youthpeaceaction.org](http://www.youthpeaceaction.org)

## TIMELINE

### July 15 - September 10, 2021

Schools, youth service clubs/orgs. accepted on rolling basis; YPA Activators (point of contact) identified; Participation Agreements signed

### September 1, 2021

Getting Started Guide and Kick-Off materials distributed to YPA Activators

### September 21, 2021

- Kick-Off Event
- Digital access codes available to join Online Peace Platform and enroll in My Peacebuilder Foundations and Guiding Young Peacebuilders courses

### October 15, 2021

- My Peacebuilder Foundations course opens
- Guiding Young Peacebuilders (mentoring) course opens

### December 1, 2021

Leading Peace Project Teams applications open

### December 15, 2021

- My Peacebuilder Foundations course completion deadline
- Guiding Young Peacebuilders course completion deadline
- Leading Peace Project Teams course applications close

### January 15, 2022

Pairings of teams and mentors announced for Peace Projects in Action

### Jan - Feb 2022

Leading Peace Project Teams online/virtual/live trainings begins for student teams and mentors

### March - April 2022

Peace projects implemented

### May 2022

Learning journey and project results profiled on YPA Online Peace Platform and in YOUUnited Celebration

YPA is recognized by:

- Alliance for Peacebuilding
- Institute for Economics & Peace
- Rotarian Action Group for Peace

## Introduction

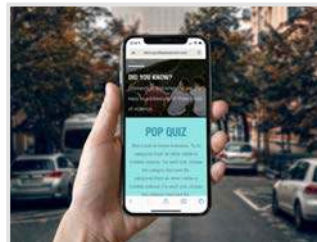
YPA 2021-22 is available to high schools and youth service clubs and organizations that apply and are accepted to participate.



### Int'l Day of Peace Kick-Off

September 21, 2021

YPA launches with a livestream introductory event focused on energizing and engaging young people as peacebuilders. Recordings available for re-broadcast.



### Online Peace Platform

September 2021 – May 2022

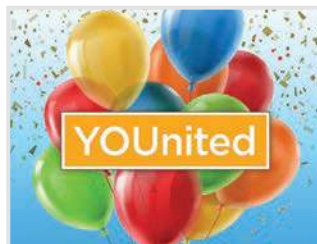
Interactive, innovative YPA online platform provides content and experiences throughout the school year. Core course, including a certificate upon completion, is My Peacebuilder Foundations.



### Peace Projects in Action

January – April 2022

Students can imagine and develop peace projects independently, or, apply for a training and mentoring experience called Leading Peacebuilding Teams. It's available to support small groups that want to learn how to lead other students in effective peace projects.



### YOUUnited Celebration

May 2022

The year's accomplishments and results are profiled in the YPA Online Peace Platform and virtual or in-person get-togethers.

## Inside

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## Kick-Off: The International Day of Peace

September 21, 2021

Open to participating high schools, youth service clubs/orgs. and YPA sponsors

### Every year, on September 21st, communities around the world observe the International Day of Peace.

It's a day devoted to the ideals of peace. In 2021, we are all being called on to think creatively and collectively about how to heal from the COVID-19 pandemic, build resilience, and keep moving towards a better world.

YPA officially launches on September 21, 2021 – the International Day of Peace – with a livestream introductory event focused on energizing and engaging young people as peacebuilders.

YPA Activators at participating high schools and youth service clubs and organizations will issue a CALL TO ACTION to join an innovative, interactive YPA Online Peace Platform that guides peace education content and experiences. This includes three courses available for students and adults: My Peacebuilder Foundations, Guiding Young Peacebuilders, and Leading Peace Project Teams. The ultimate goal is Peace Projects in Action.

The one-hour International Peace Day Kick-Off will incorporate creative performances, youth influencers, guest speakers, and:

- Be hosted by young peacebuilders
- Mix live and pre-recorded content
- Be available during the school day and for re-broadcast
- Issue a first *Peacebuilding Challenge*



**WOW!** Participants receive digital access codes for the YPA Online Peace Platform

### One of the Featured Speakers



**Meera Dasgupta**, 2020 United States Youth Poet Laureate – and youngest in US history – will perform a poem created for the YPA launch

And then?



Online Peace Platform



# Online Peace Platform

September 2021 – May 2022

Open to participating high schools and youth service clubs/orgs., as well as YPA supporting sponsors.

## For the 21st Century

After the Kick-Off, everyone in participating youth service clubs/orgs. has the opportunity to benefit from an innovative, interactive desktop and mobile-friendly platform designed with:

- Peace education CONTENT
- CASE STUDIES of young peacebuilders, their projects and impact
- Exciting CHALLENGES to promote and make peace
- Connections with a growing COMMUNITY of young peacebuilders to share ideas about ways to make a difference

The journey includes certificates that recognize completion of key learning and experiential milestones.

### My Peacebuilder Foundations

### Guiding Young Peacebuilders

### Peace Projects in Action

### Leading Peace Project Teams



**WOW!** There's simply no other opportunity like this!

**Content Challenges** **Cases Studies** **Community**

## NewGen Peacebuilders<sup>SM</sup> Guides

As students engage in the Online Peace Platform, they will have opportunities to hear about and learn from young certified peacebuilders. Their voices and experiences will serve to offer guidance, inspiration and education throughout the core My Peacebuilder Foundations course and beyond. These inspiring peacebuilder role models have completed peacebuilder training, served as young peace ambassadors, mentored teams, created multiple peace projects and won significant awards.



Then what?

➔ My Peacebuilder Foundations ➔➔

# My Peacebuilder Foundations

October 2021 – January 2022

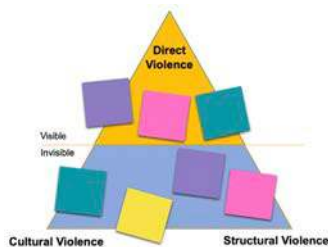
After the Kick-Off, access opens to the innovative desktop and mobile-friendly Online Peace Platform. Who can participate and benefit? All students, teachers and advisors at accepted high schools, youth service clubs/orgs., as well as YPA supporting sponsors.



My Peacebuilder Foundations is the core online course and interactive content that is delivered in sequential modules. The self-paced content can be completed in approximately 20 hours. Course completion achieves understanding of fundamental drivers of conflict and peace, as well as a more informed capacity to frame a problem statement and create a peace project idea.

## Key Peacebuilding Frameworks Included

Galtung's Triangle of Violence to distinguish different types of violence



Conflict Tree to get at the root causes of an issue



Eight Pillars of Peace to understand systemic drivers of conflict & peace



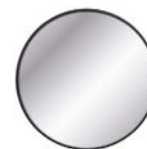
UNLEASH framework for peace project ideation, design and development



These frameworks are presented within an interactive format designed by an award-winning learning management design team. The course leverages and is powered by **CONTENT** and experiences from education, training and mentoring programs previously delivered by NewGen Peacebuilders.

## “7H<sup>SM</sup>” Structure for Modules

Every module involves **Self-Reflection** activities that feel like *looking in a mirror*, **Gaining New Knowledge** *peering through a window*, and **Interactive Exercises** *opening/walking through a door to a new world of peacebuilding*.



Self-Reflection



Knowledge



Skills

1 Hello   Hope	2	3 Harm	4 Healing	5 Heart	6 Head	7 Hands
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**WOW!** Successful completion results in a certificate from NewGen Peacebuilders and Youth & Peace in Action, as well as ongoing access to resources for research papers, capstone and senior projects, and more.

There's more . . . What's in the Modules?



## Six modules guide participants – interactively – through fundamentals of power, conflict, violence and peace. Insights gained span:

### 1 2 Hello | Hope

- Historical perceptions of conflict and violence, as well as effects of modern media on these perceptions

### 3 Harm

- Role and potential of young people as essential peacebuilders
- Distinctions between “negative peace” and “positive peace”
- Indexes of global peace, positive peace, human development, happiness, and more

### 4 Healing

- Reflections on whether the world has become more peaceful or violent
- Broad perspectives on what constitutes “harm”
- Distinctions between pity, sympathy, empathy, altruism and compassion
- Essential “ways of being” including active listening, focusing, self-awareness and emotional management

### 5 Heart

- Connections between universal ideals of human rights and peace
- Core peacebuilding values
- Personal “triggers” that get in the way of peacebuilding
- Distinctions between service and peace as a *process for positive change*
- Essential tools and skills for peacebuilding

### 6 Head

- How to identify underlying drivers of conflict and peace
- Problem framing and idea development for effective peace projects

### 7 Hands

Assessments are included at the end of *each* module and after completion of *all* modules. The course includes supplemental content that is useful for other class research, papers and capstone projects. Resources are available throughout the **Online Peace Platform** for those who want to learn even more about peacebuilding.





# Guiding Young Peacebuilders

October – December 2021

An online course is available to advisors of youth service clubs/orgs., community sponsors and teachers.



## Supporting Youth-Led Projects

While students are completing My Peacebuilder Foundations – advisors, community sponsors and teachers have access to the Guiding Young Peacebuilders course which links essential elements of My Peacebuilder Foundations with additional content on the fundamentals of “positive peace”; tips on developing successful peace projects; and Code of Conduct guidelines and principles for working with peace project teams.



Aspects of the learning include:

- Issues that interest young people 14 to 18
- Rethinking peace – moving communities beyond the absence of violence toward long-term resilience and peace
- Creating comfortable virtual and live spaces for young people
- Using technology for team communications and management



After completing Guiding Young Peacebuilders, mentors can work independently with local project teams or there is an option to apply to become a mentor for Leading Peace Project Teams (starts January 2022). “LPT” includes a short training and facilitated support for mentors and student leaders who want to guide student clubs and groups to deliver effective peace projects.



**WOW! Completion of Guiding Young Peacebuilders achieves two forms of recognition – one from Youth & Peace in Action and a certificate of attainment from the Peace Academy of the Institute for Economics & Peace.**

Next up

Peace Projects in Action





## Peace Projects in Action

January – April 2022

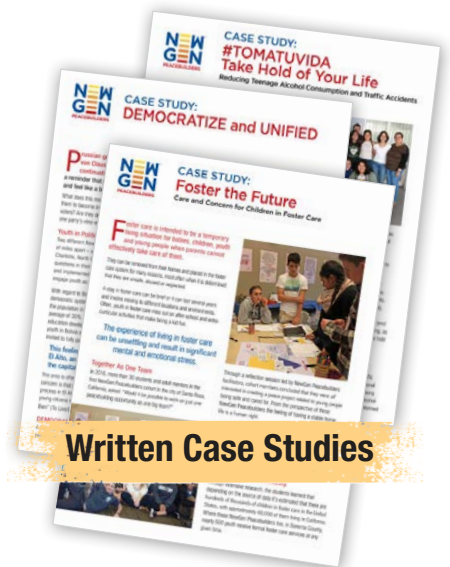
A unique aspect of YPA is that the program emphasizes education *for* peacebuilding, not just education *about* peace. All students who complete My Peacebuilder Foundations and potential mentors who complete Guiding Young Peacebuilders are prepared to imagine and start peace projects.

### Peacebuilding is the ultimate goal

A wide body of research with young people indicates there are 18-20 issues about which they care most. Just a few are:

- Domestic Violence
- Education Inequity
- Environment/Pollution
- Gun Violence
- Homelessness
- Human Trafficking
- Hunger
- Intolerance

The Online Peace Platform includes case studies of youth-led peace projects that will inspire young people to imagine and design their own projects. In addition, there is a catalogue of issues-related data that can be tapped to strengthen problem statements and peace project ideas. This makes for better projects.



Written Case Studies

*Build Peace. Repeat the Peace.™*

### Peace Project Videos



#RiceForLife: [tinyurl.com/YPA-RiceForLifeVideo](https://tinyurl.com/YPA-RiceForLifeVideo)

### Sample Presentations of Results



Refugee and Immigrant Transitions: [tinyurl.com/YPA-Transitions](https://tinyurl.com/YPA-Transitions)

To think BIG ...



# Leading Peace Project Teams

January – April 2022

This opportunity is for students who want to more fully develop leadership and project management skills, as well as guide other students to put Peace Projects in Action. Small groups with a minimum of five student leaders can be paired with peace projects mentors.

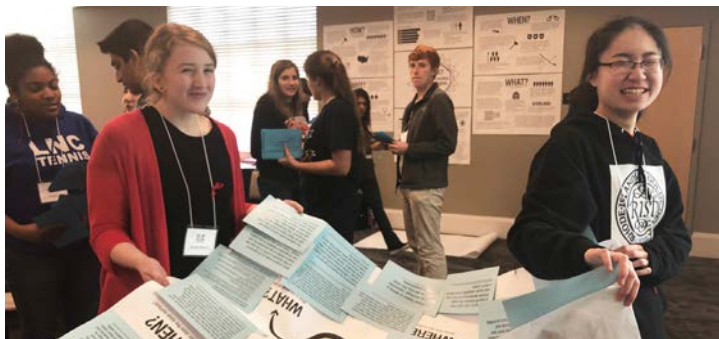


## Students & Mentors: Project Implementation

How do students refine peace project ideas in what feels like an age of chaos? Small teams of student leaders paired with a teacher, service club advisor or community mentor who has completed **Guiding Young Peacebuilders** are able to prototype, test and implement peace projects based on ideas generated through **My Peacebuilder Foundations**.

In a two-day accelerator style virtual/in-person summit, teams and mentors receive facilitated instruction and guidance that results in a peace project plan. Implementation takes place over 8-10 weeks with a commitment from team members and mentors of 2-3 hours per week. Questions that are answered during the experience are:

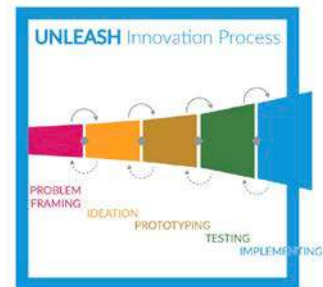
- What type of conflict or violence are you addressing? (Direct, Cultural, or Structural)
- What project type are you addressing? (Awareness, Service, Advocacy or Philanthropy – ASAP)
- What are your SMART Goals? (Specific, Measurable, Actionable, Realistic, Time-bound)
- If your project could be repeated or replicated, what do you hope will change? (Theory of Change)
- What are your team agreements for working together?



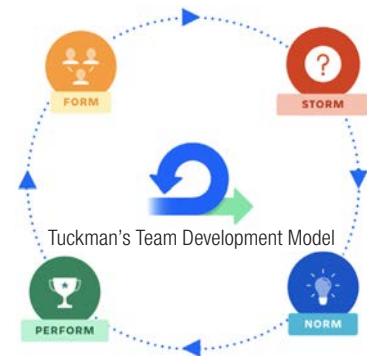
## VUCA



Source: [www.microtool.de/en/knowledge-base/what-does-vuca-mean](http://www.microtool.de/en/knowledge-base/what-does-vuca-mean)



Source: <https://unleash.org>



Source: [dzone.com/articles/the-agile-guide-to-winning-at-team-development](http://dzone.com/articles/the-agile-guide-to-winning-at-team-development)



**WOW!** Completion of these peace projects leads to an advanced certification that supports students in applications for competitive awards, scholarships and recognition. The highest quality peace projects are eligible to be featured on the YPA online platform.

Still curious?



Questions & Answers

The implementing organizations for YPA 2021-22 are NewGen Peacebuilders<sup>SM</sup> (NGP) and Outward Bound Peacebuilding (OBP). NGP and OBP are experienced leaders of workshops, trainings and dialogues in multiple cities, countries and contexts. YPA online, virtual and live learning content and experiences are powered by NGP-based instruction and facilitation.

## Q&A

### Who can apply?

Public, private, charter and virtual high schools or youth service clubs within high schools can apply. Community youth service clubs/orgs. may also apply. Participation in 2021-22 is generally limited to the geography identified in the map on the inside cover of this brochure. Interact Clubs are encouraged to apply due to connections with Rotary Clubs, but applications are welcome from Student Government Associations, Model UN, UNICEF chapters, Key Club, Beta Club, NHS, Scouts, Boys & Girls Clubs, and other groups.

### What are the benefits?

YPA puts youth at the center of building and sustaining a culture of peace. A unique aspect of YPA is an innovative web-based platform that is mobile-friendly and contains **Content, Challenges, Case Studies and Community**. Students drawn to and or required to complete service learning projects will find team action peace project learning and experiences especially relevant. Certifications are provided for completion of different aspects of the journey. Quality team action peace projects can be considered for additional recognition and awards.

### Is there a cost to participate?

If accepted into YPA, there is *no cost* to participate. However, the number of high schools and youth service clubs/orgs. that will be accepted is limited by total available sponsor funding. Acceptance notifications are made on a rolling basis with a deadline of Sept. 10th for high schools and youth service clubs/orgs. that want to participate starting with the Kick-Off event on International Peace Day – Sept. 21.

### Is the content approved by school boards or other authorities?

YPA is currently intended as an educational and experiential *option* for administrators, teachers and advisors within high schools and youth service clubs/orgs. The choice to make use of YPA resources is voluntary and at the discretion of educators and advisors who believe YPA is consistent with established education and service learning standards.

### What are the responsibilities of a high school or service club/org.?

A Principal, Assistant Principal, designated administrator or teacher may apply on behalf of a high school. An advisor may submit an application for a high school or community youth service club/org. For each application, a **Youth Peace Activator** must be identified and serve as a primary contact with YPA. If multiple service clubs from a high school want to be involved, one application can serve as “umbrella” for all. Any school-based club that applies is encouraged to promote the YPA opportunity to the school broadly, including other service clubs. A student inquiring about YPA must coordinate with an adult who has authority to sign a YPA agreement.

SPONSORS



IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS



COLLABORATOR



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