



nebraska
children
AND FAMILIES FOUNDATION

Youth Leadership Council

Elevating High School Staff
Voices Statewide



Lauren Clark
Beyond School Bells

Why Focus on Youth Voice?

- Youth bring fresh, new, and relevant ideas to the table
- High school students have the near-peer advantage as staff
- Raising youth voice gives students a sense of pride and purpose in their program
- High school staff in our programs may become fulltime staff or advocates for afterschool in the future



BSB Youth Voice Initiatives

- [Youth Brainstorming Sheets](#) (grades K-8)
- [Design Studio](#) (grades 9-12 and college)
- [Youth Leadership Council](#) (grades 9-12)



What is the Youth Leadership Council (YLC)?

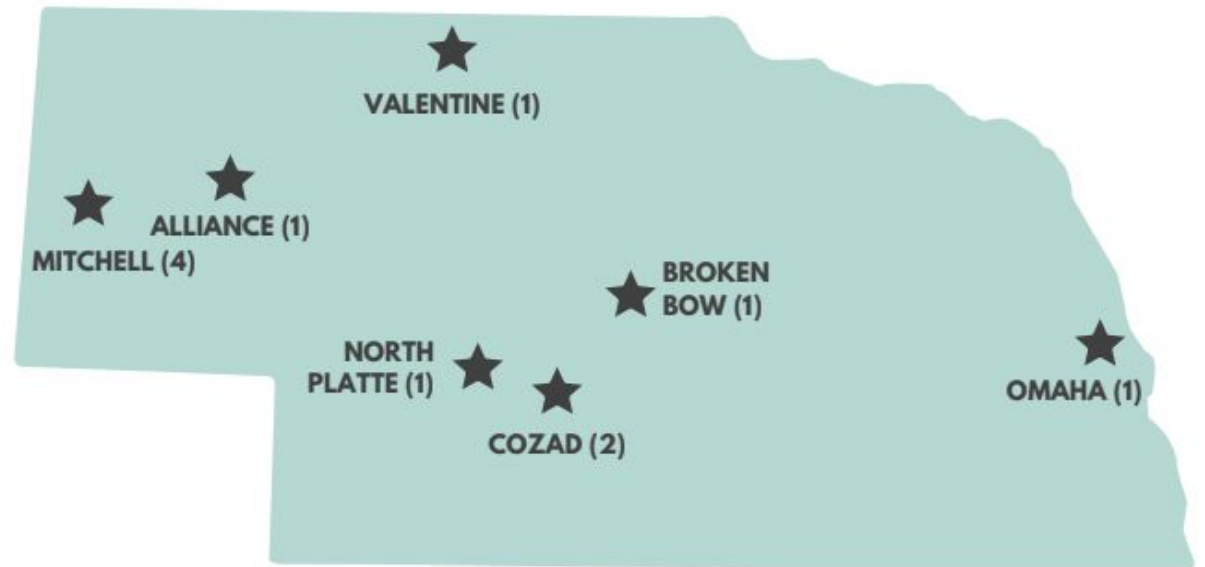
- Semester-long paid cohort experience
- Led by Beyond School Bells (me!)
- Select 5-15 students from an online application process
- Virtual meetings (minimal outside work)
 - Team-building, professional development, and YLC project work time
 - Based on student availability (weekday evenings)
- Encourage students to take a leadership role in their programs (YLC project)



Overview of Past Cohorts

Spring 2023 Cohort

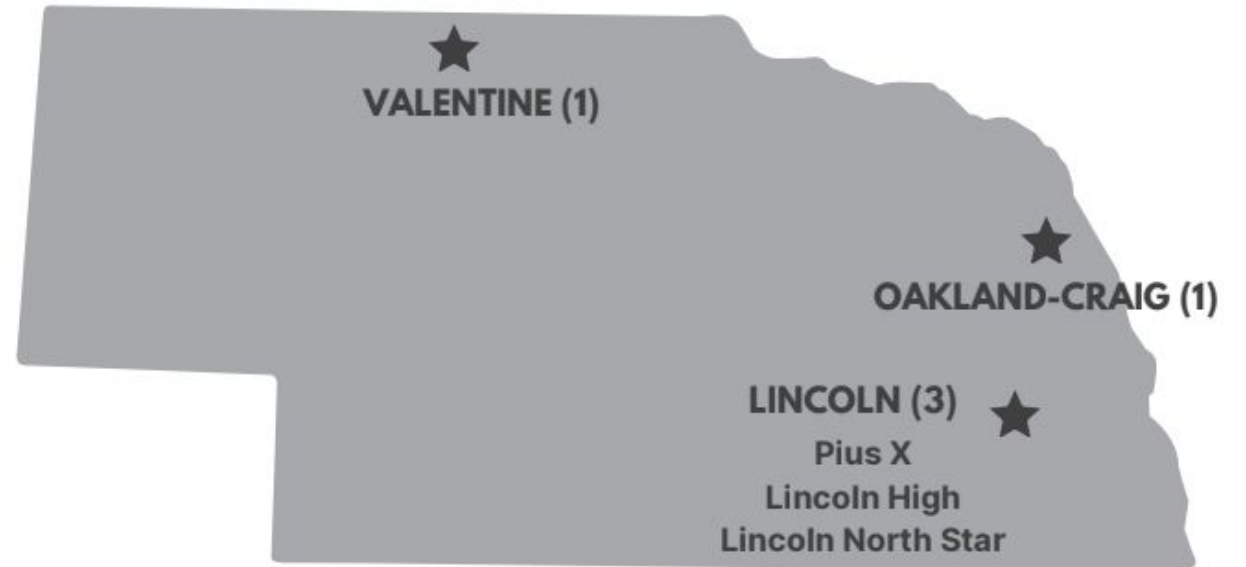
- Recruitment early December
- Council meetings January-May
- 11 students from 7 afterschool programs



Overview of Past Cohorts

Fall 2023 Cohort

- Recruitment early July
- Council meetings August-October
- 5 students from 5 afterschool programs



YLC Project Spotlight

YLC PROJECT: CREATING FRIENDS ACROSS GRADES “BADGER CUB DENS”

“I have noticed that kindergarten and first grade students do not get to socialize with the second-through fourth-graders. I wanted to give the younger students a chance to speak to the older students, allowing them to get to know one another better and create new relationships.” In Badger Cub Dens, students from all grades will get to spend time getting to know one another at the beginning of each club day.

BELLA R. VALENTINE, NE

📖 Valentine High School

🍏 Grade 12

🏫 High School Support
Staff for Valentine’s
Badger Cub Club



YLC Project Spotlight



**LENA K.
LINCOLN, NE**

📖 Lincoln North Star
High School

🍏 Grade 12

🏫 Program Support Staff
at Campbell
Elementary School



YLC PROJECT: PARENT NEWSLETTER “BRIDGING THE GAPS”

“Through this project, I hope to allow parents and staff to feel more involved and aware of what goes on during those three hours after the school bell rings. CLC programs should feel like a part of the community and an extension of the school day. Hopefully, sharing [about the program] through newsletters and newsblasts can bridge the gaps that [often] exist between teachers, families and afterschool programming!”


YLC Project Spotlight





YLC PROJECT OVERVIEW: FARM ANIMAL AND PET SAFETY

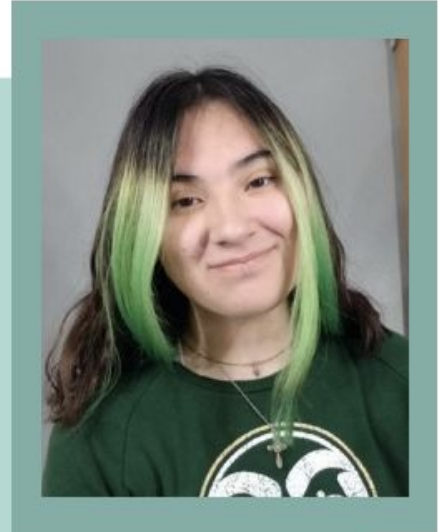
Nini hopes to lead animal safety and care lessons to encourage student engagement in the program. She knows farm animals and household pets are common in Mitchell and hopes to teach her students how to interact with these animals in a safe environment.

NINI C. MITCHELL, NE

 Mitchell High School

 Grade 10

 Mitchell Afterschool Program



Spring 2023 Survey Results

“

Meeting a group of driven students who care about their students (and students' families) was very beneficial... I learned new tactics I can incorporate into [my] program

”

“

This helped me stay motivated to make a change

”



82%
of YLC members

feel more
**confident taking
a leadership role**
in their program



91%
of YLC members

learned one or
more tactics to
**better engage
with students**



100%
of YLC members

would
**recommend
membership on
YLC to a friend**

Fall 2023 Survey Results

BEST PART OF YLC:

“connecting to [students] from across Nebraska that understand me and my connection and passion for afterschool and kids.”

ADVICE FOR FUTURE YLCs:

“Go for it! **You will not regret sharing your story.**”



100%
of Fall YLC members



Feel more confident taking a leadership role in their program



Learned one or more tactics to better engage with students



Would recommend membership on YLC to a friend

Lessons Learned

Recruitment and Cohort Timing 2024

- Move fall recruitment later (through August) with meetings starting in September
- Addition of a concentrated summer cohort in July

Meetings and Content

- Add 2-3 meetings to allow for more team bonding and work time
- Invite more content experts to lead professional development



Highlights

Students:

- Make friends with high school staff from across the state
- Learn from select guest speakers participate in professional development
- Receive a \$250 stipend from BSB for completing the experience
- Are empowered to take a leadership role in their program

Program:

- Free opportunity to help your high school staff grow and develop as leaders!



Getting Involved in YLC

- Applications for the July cohort will open at the beginning of May
- Students can apply for YLC via an online application process
- Make sure to subscribe to the BSB newsletter or periodically check our website for updates about the upcoming summer cohort!



Any Questions for Me?

My Contact Info:

Lauren Clark

Beyond School Bells

lclark@nebraskachildren.org

Website:

<https://beyondschoolbells.org/youth-voice/youth-leadership-council.html>

Visit the website



Thank you!



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AND FAMILIES FOUNDATION

www.NebraskaChildren.org