

Monthly Newsletter

JUNE

youthoptionsshasta.org

2025

Empowered to Lead: YOS at the 20th Annual Youth Court Summit



"Youth Options Shasta students attending the 20th Annual CAYC Summit at UC Riverside."

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — In June, six of our outstanding youth leaders traveled to UC Riverside to take part in the 20th Annual Youth Court Summit, hosted by the California Association of Youth Courts (CAYC). Over the course of four days, students were immersed in workshops, breakout sessions, and real-life leadership experiences designed to equip and inspire the next generation of justice-minded youth.

From opening keynotes by California's Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero to interactive workshops like Youth Volunteer Engagement, Fentanyl/Opioid Awareness, and The Neighborhood: How Bias and Discrimination Affect People's Lives, our students leaned into the call to lead with integrity, compassion, and confidence.

Wearing their Youth Options Shasta shirts, our team showed up with courage and curiosity — asking big questions, engaging in meaningful conversations, and building community with other youth from across the state.





"The summit was amazing! After hearing all of the guest speakers, I came to the realization that there are so many things you can do in criminal justice for juveniles. It really opened my eyes for my future career.

#CAYCYouthSummit

It was an amazing opportunity!"

— Maddie Orr

From a twelve hour travel adventure that helped build connection to a minor league baseball game under the lights, and a glamorous Roaring 20's Gala to late-night dorm chats — the memories made were as unforgettable as the lessons learned.

On the final morning, our students stood shoulder to shoulder with hundreds of their peers for one last group photo — full of pride, hope, and vision for what's next.

We're incredibly proud of each student who represented Youth Options Shasta with heart, humility, and strength. This Summit was more than a trip — it was a launchpad for leaders.



Safety First: A Summer Series Begins

We launched a new Safety First class cycle in June with sessions on the 9th, 16th, and 30th. This evidence-based harm reduction program helps teens build skills around decision-making, communication, and self-awareness in a non-judgmental environment. Our team continues to see powerful conversations unfold as youth gain tools for real-life challenges.

Establishing Our Peer Advocate Team

This month, we began forming our Peer Advocate Team — a leadership opportunity for youth ready to go deeper. These dedicated volunteers will receive training, lead peer workshops, and earn a small stipend for their service.

We're excited to equip them to become change agents within their schools and communities.