

YOUNG
LEADERS

Strong CITY

Building racial justice, equity, and
action across communities.



Each year, YLSC brings together hundreds of students from public, private, and charter schools to talk about race ...

Founded in 2014, Young Leaders, Strong City's (YLSC) mission is to equip a network of students, educators, and their adult allies with tools to analyze, advocate, and dismantle systemic racism in themselves, their schools and communities.

The YLSC annual racial justice & equity youth summit brings together high school students from across the Dallas area to spark dialogue, awareness, engagement, and equip them to advocate for racial justice and equity in their schools, communities and beyond. We encourage students to deconstruct racism, analyze its role in our lives and world, and to develop ideas and strategies around creating racial justice and the development of an action plan for change.

Since 2014



3500+ Students



From 40 +
Campuses



75+ Activists,
Artists,
& Educators

Students design their experience...

YLSC's annual summit provides an unprecedented platform where students choose workshops facilitated by other students as well as adults. It is a rare and carefully curated space for students to talk about race and racism with their peers and adult allies.

Summit Overview

Opening: The day opens with an opening session that all students attend. The opening theme sets the tone for the day.

Breakout Sessions: Students then get to select their breakout sessions from a variety of topics.

Closing: The day closes with students recap of the day followed by an open mic and poetry slam.

Recurrent Topics Include

- Immigration Rights
- Cultural Appropriation & Power
- Policy & Voting 101
- Organizing & Movement Building
- Food & Climate Justice
- Decolonizing Your Self-Care
- Allies vs. Accomplices
- History of Race & Identity
- Policing & Our Schools
- Race, Gender, & Sexuality
- Colorism & Beauty
- Mental Healthcare & Access



"I enjoyed learning about history that was mine, and yet I didn't know it." - YLSC Alum

"With YLSC as our partners in this endeavor, what we thought was going to be a great day of learning for our students, surpassed all our expectations. The day-long Racial Justice and Equity Teen Summit was an amazing experience and ended with everyone wanting more. More knowledge, more conversations, more debate.....just more of what we had been exposed to in our short time together."

Angelia Lee
Director, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion
Richardson ISD



98% of students
reported positive experience
based on type of workshops,
material covered and
organization of the day



Young Leaders, Strong City is housed at the nonprofit arm of The Imagining Freedom Institute (IF). The IF Institute focuses on dismantling institutional and structural racism, providing historical analysis of inequitable policy and practices, addressing intersectionality in issues and solutions, and envisioning a more equitable society.

While The Imagining Freedom Institute offers paid programs for both youth and adults, our annual summit is intentionally designed to be free for all participants and to include as many students as possible.

The annual summit is made possible by a combination of public and private donations. Offerings and attendance increases based on funding. If you would like to support the Young Leaders, Strong City Annual Summit, please contact or visit us:

ylscdallas@gmail.com
ylscmovement.org • theifinstitute.com



Student Activism

Inspired by the YLSC summit, students have created numerous projects including a microaggressions photo exhibit, a feminist zine, and a student-led immigration rights summit. In 2018, two YLSC alum successfully petitioned RISD superintendent to host a district-specific YLSC summit for all RISD high schools.