POWER OF THE YOUTH



OYLS 2025

CL spk

AIM HIGH AKRON
GEAR UP

Ohio Wesleyan University

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Photos!

Because a picture's worth a thousand words.

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Survey Results

What our scholars thought about their experience.

GEAR UP Leading Scholars

OYLS 202



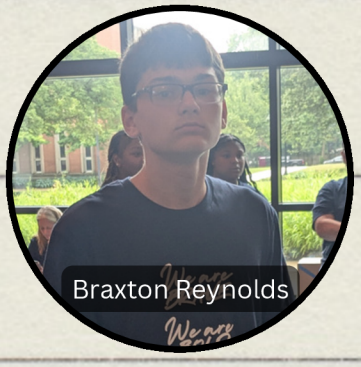




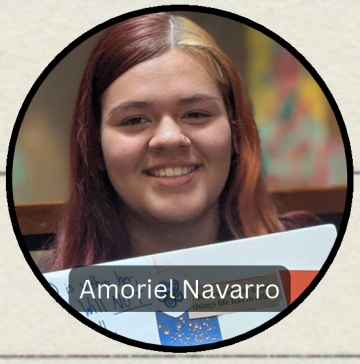












CoolSpeak Team

Thank You!



Griselda Rodriguez-Solomon PhD



Marley Lizama



Lamarr Womble



Tim Stafford



TaLisa Ramos-Watts

Day One Highlights

















Family Names

Winner Winner Chicken Dinner

lil' L.E.G.E.N.D.S.

The Rugrats

The Goal Getters



Move Into Stuyvesant Hall



Keynote Speaker

Lamarr Womble
Becoming Legendary

Building the Mountain

Students were asked to write on a post-it note all of the negative words and phrases that people have said to them that weigh them down. They then stick it on the mountain.

Why Why Why?: Talisa

Scholars were asked to find and share (if they wanted to) their "why" and were reminded that purpose gives life meaning. Understanding your "why" gives you the strength to never quit.

Walking on a Volcano

With their "families" (assigned groups), scholars had to work their way across and back a pool of lava with only six stepping stones that they could move one at a time.

"I Am" Poem

Marley led Scholars in guided poetry writing, challenging them to look inward and define who it is they truely are and who they

Dream Board

Scholars were asked to dream big and speak those dreams into existent on their personal dream boards. They were encouraged to share out their dreams and the why behind it.

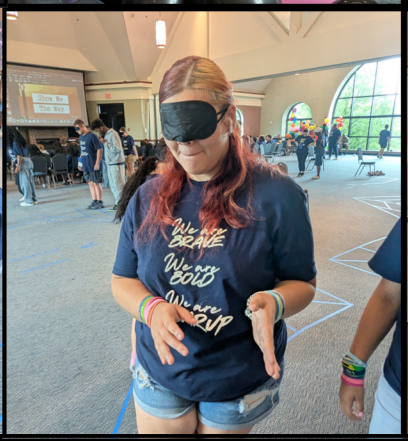
Lip-sync Battle

Scholars could participate as a group or solo. This year, the OYLS Students decided to push the limits of the rules with multiple students blowing us away with their ACTUAL singing voice, story-telling, and dancing skills.








Day Two Highlights

Activity: Foundational Balloon Towers

Scholars had to work with their families to build the highest free-standing balloon tower. Each group had a different number of foundation balloons, and it was easy to see the importance of a strong foundation.

Keynote Speaker: Marley Lizama

Marley spoke about growing up as a non english speaker in Texas in a low income and high crime town. He used poetry to not only pass his english class he was failing, but also to find his voice. He is not only an accomphlished poet, but a breakdancer as well who represented the United States as a breakdancing coach for the Olympics.

Tearing Down Mountains

One by one scholars tore down the words posted on the "mountain" they had created and pulled another student up so they could do the same. They then went around the room to write positive messages to the peers they had met and worked with during camp.

Power of Youth Graduation

Scholars received their certificates for completion, and camp awards were given out.

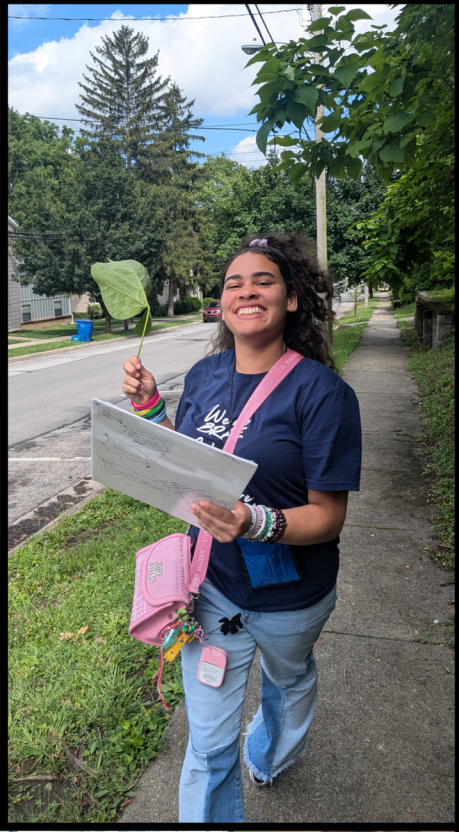
Ohio Wesleyan Scholarship

Ohio Wesleyan University commits to providing each OYLS student with a $4,000 scholarship should they choose to enroll at OWU


We are BRAVE
We are BOLD
We are GEAR UP














THE MOUNTAIN


We are BRAVE
We are BOLD






We are BRAVE
We are BOLD










Hawaii
Vision Board!
PREMIUM


POWER of YOUTH
IT ALL BEGINS WITH YOU!
Janylah Hogg
HELLO
I am...
Janylah
Tuff!
cool
smart
nice
Alice
Pretty
Trying
Kind
Keep Going!
Good
www.voiceequalspower.com
POWER of YOUTH


GOD is within her, She Will NOT Fall.
Psalm 46:5
FINANCIAL SECURITY
HELLO
I am...
Anariel
www.voiceequalspower.com
POWER of YOUTH


HELLO
I am...
Vikiyah
Powe
Awesome
gorgeous
Alot of Energy
smart
Worthy
Beautiful
Dreams
enough
www.voiceequalspower.com
POWER of YOUTH
POWER of YOUTH
IT ALL BEGINS WITH YOU!
Vikiyah Powe
We are BOLD


HELLO
I am...
CARTER
Nice
Cool
Genius
POWER of YOUTH
Carter Wilson


HELLO
I am...
Braxton
fun
Smart
Kind
POWER of YOUTH
CARLOS OJEDA JR.

GRIFFINS




POWER of YOUTH
Heaven Hogue
HELLO
I am...
Heaven
fun
Smart
Sweet
Pretty
your awesome
Pretty


HELLO
I am...
Massagy
POWER of YOUTH
Massagy Toure
MASSAGY GOALS

Student Voices

The OYLS Experience:

100% of Students

- Felt like they learned something useful
- Felt like this experience has helped them grow
- Felt like this experience helped them connect with themselves, their emotions, and who they are/want to be

Defining Moments

"The Mountain was my defining moment becasue I learned about people and heard their stories. It made me really think that I am not alone and that there are people who really see me for who I am."

"The Hunt (campus wide scavenger hunt) was my definitve moment. It really made us think outside the box."

"My defining moment was when I wrote my poem. The poems made me look at my innerself and ask myself 'why'."

What You Learned:

"I learned that it is ok to come out of your comfort zone."

"I learned to associate myself with likeminded people and to give myself some grace."

"I learned how to be a leader, to believe in myself, and it helped build my confidence."

Would You Recommend OYLS?

"Yes, I would recommend it to my peers. I would tell them it's an overnight trip. We do a lot of fun activities, connect with other people, and people come and share their life story"

"Yes, I would say it's a great opportunity to show who you are as a person, that everyone has different life choices, and that you're not alone in your journey."

"Yes. I would tell them it is fun and to cover your face because Ms. Audrey takes a lot of photos."

Student Thoughts:

"I love how deep Mr. Marley went into his childhood and his culteral background and how Mr. Lamarr spoke about mental health and how experiencing hardships doesn't mean you're struggling with mental health."

"Wrtiting the poems and speaking them out loud was my favorite part. I enjoyed this activity the most because it showed that I'm not alone and I have peers who stuggle with the same things I do. I have a safe space and that's really comforting when you've been lost for so long."

" The Mountain was my favorite actviity. When we first got there we had to write what people say to put us down. When we were leaving, we had to read someone else's, throw it away, and pick someone else up. "

"Hearing Lamarr and Marley talk about overcoming their challenges definitely had an impact on me, my own challenges, and I can overcome them."



GEAR UP