Southeast Service Cooperative 16th Annual
Young Authors, Young Artists Middle School Conference

For students in grades 6-8
Thursday, October 22, 2026

Southeast Service Cooperative

Registration for the Young Authors, Young Artists Middle School Conference will be accepted on a first-registered basis. There will be 200 seats for students in grades 6-8.

Early Bird Registration (Open Now – October 9) - $52 per student
Standard Registration (October 10 – October 21) - $62 per student

Students will choose 4 sessions from knowledgeable presenters. Every effort will be made to grant your requests as space allows, but we cannot guarantee that your student will get all four of the requested sessions. This conference will be held at the Wood Lake Meeting Center in Rochester, MN.

Sessions & Presenters

A. Mindful Lines and Zentangle Doodles. Mindfully unleash your creativity in a relaxing, hands-on workshop that bridges art therapy, rhythmic pattern-making, and sound. Neurographic art combines free-form, organic lines with Zentangle Designs to create striking, brain-like neural pathways. Workshop participants will be guided through the steps while exploring artmaking with music and leave with a vibrant, colorful artwork to take home.
Presented by: Joy Blewett

B. Plotting with Post-its. We all love Post-it Notes! They mostly help us remember things, but they can also be used to create a plot for a story. In this class, we'll discuss what every plot needs, how to carry action from scene to scene, and why it's important to increase the tension from beginning to end. Students will use this technique to generate a unique story outline.
Presented by: Jennifer Davidson

C. Boo Crew. Get creative and make your own spooky ghost! In this hands-on pottery class, you'll use air-dry clay to shape and design a one-of-a-kind ghost that can light up with a tea light. Add your own personality, details, and creepy-cool style to make it totally yours!
Presented by: Anna Kjose

D. Comic Jam! Collaborate with your fellow students to draw hilarious comics together! You draw the first panel of your comic, then pass it to someone else, who will draw the next panel, and so on! How will these stories turn out by the end? *Presented by: Micah Amundsen*

E. Dynamic Comic Cover Creation. Do you love super heroes and comics? In this class you will create your own character and design an original comic book cover. The class begins with a discussion on super heroes and dynamic comic cover designs. A handout covering drawing tutorials on super hero ideas, a variety of different action poses, samples of cover designs and other helpful hints will be provided to help create your very own dynamic super powered character and add it to a dynamic comic book cover design. *Presented by: Scott Rolfs*

F. Fondant Figures. Create edible art in this new YAYA offering! In this class, you'll learn the step-by-step process to sculpt small figures out of fondant. Students will add color, adjust consistency, form basic shapes, and add support when needed. Learn the process, then add details to create your own animals or fantasy creatures. Premade ingredients will be gluten-free, soy-free, and nut-free; however; there is always a risk of contamination. Eat at your own risk. *Presented by: Christi Fosland*

G. Small Felted Creatures. Learn basic needle felting techniques to create a 3-dimensional felted friend. Students can choose from their own imagination and use the skills taught to add ears, tails, beaks, or other things to make their unique creature. *Presented by: Stena Lieb*

Conference Schedule

8:30 am	Check-in Opens
9:00-9:05 am	Announcements
9:05-10:05 am	Session 1
10:10-11:10 am	Session 2
11:10-11:45 am	Lunch
(Bring your own, refrigeration not provided)	
11:50-12:50 pm	Session 3
12:55-1:55 pm	Session 4

If you have questions, please contact:
Katie Hartman, khartman@ssc.coop, 507.281.6667

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OPTIONAL – STEP ONE: Secure Student Spots

You can secure student spots (and early bird pricing) prior to registration. **This would guarantee your students a spot in the conference, before having to collect registration forms from students.** You should contact Katie Hartman with the number of spots you'd like to reserve.

STEP TWO: Ready to register?

Visit: www.ssc.coop/student-programs/yaya-ms

Download the "Student Registration" Excel spreadsheet and enter the information requested. List four sessions you would like to attend. Every effort will be made to grant your requests as space allows, but we cannot guarantee that you will get all of your requested sessions. Assignments are made based on many factors. Re-save this spreadsheet and email it to: khartman@ssc.coop Additional instructions will be provided to you upon receiving this file.
All registrations must be submitted on the Excel spreadsheet.

STEP THREE: Payment

- Purchase Order (mail, email or fax)
- Checks (payable to SSC) & mailed to the address below
- Credit Card: Please email Katie and she will invoice you - khartman@ssc.coop

Mailing Address:

Southeast Service Cooperative
Attn: Katie Hartman
210 Wood Lake Drive SE
Rochester, MN 55904

Fax: 507.288.7663
Email: khartman@ssc.coop

If you have questions or concerns, please contact:
Katie Hartman, khartman@ssc.coop, 507.281.6667