

11th Ethnic Studies Youth Conference

Portland State University

Smith Memorial Student Union

Friday, November 20th, 2026

Call for Youth Presenters

Portland State University's College of Education, in partnership with Portland Community College's Department of Race, Indigenous Nations, and Gender Studies, is hosting our 11th Ethnic Studies Youth Conference - a platform for middle and high school students from throughout Oregon to gather and share their art, testimonies, and research relating to the intersections of race and ethnicity, social, economic, and environmental justice. This free conference connects people across age groups, institutions, and geographies, and centers youth voices in a supportive environment.

WHEN: Friday, November 20th, 2026, 8:30am-3:30pm

WHERE: Portland State University, Smith Memorial Student Union (SMSU)

WHY: To connect youth, art, advocates, and research



Smith Memorial Student Union, PSU

CONFERENCE STRUCTURE:

Participating middle and high school students will give presentations of 10-15 minutes (per group), depending on the number of panelists. Panels will be grouped by theme and moderated by educators, scholars, and community leaders. Presentations are followed by supportive question/answer and discussion periods. Students may also request longer presentation times to lead and facilitate a workshop.

Participation is free. Space is limited. Free conference preparation support is available for teachers and youth leaders.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

Middle and high school students who want to share art or research should submit their presentation title and a brief description by November 3rd, 2026. Teachers and youth group leaders may also submit one form with multiple presenters, titles, and descriptions directly via email.

1. Conference participation forms found here: [Participation Form](#)
2. For volunteers and groups interested in supporting, please visit the [online volunteer form](#).
3. Reach out directly to conference organizer Gabriel Higuera at 971-722-7936, gabriel.higuera@pcc.edu, or visit <https://www.criticaleducators.org/youth-conference>.