

Youth Quest 2024

Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions About Youth Quest

What is Youth Quest?

Youth Quest is an annual event hosted by the California Youth Advocacy Network (CYAN) to celebrate and promote youth advocacy in tobacco prevention. Youth Quest provides an opportunity for youth advocates to demonstrate their commitment to a smoke and commercial tobacco-free California; learn about current tobacco prevention, education, and treatment efforts; and build their advocacy skills by sharing their local work with legislators.

How is Youth Quest funded?

CYAN's Youth Quest event is funded by the California Department of Public Health, Tobacco Prevention Program (CTPP).

Where is Youth Quest held?

The 2024 Youth Quest event will take place in Sacramento, CA at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center (1401 K Street) and the State Capitol.

Will there be a virtual option for those who cannot attend in person?

This year's event will not have a virtual option. For those unable to attend the event in Sacramento, CYAN encourages you to schedule visits with local legislators so youth have an opportunity to meet with decision makers and highlight the work they are doing in their community. If you plan on conducting a local visit, CYAN is able to provide your organization support with facilitating training to youth partners, crafting talking points, and scheduling visits with decision makers.

What is the theme of Youth Quest?

The event theme changes annually and is determined by the CYAN Youth Board of Directors. The 2024 theme is currently being finalized and will be shared soon.

What is the schedule for Youth Quest?

The in-person event will take place on Monday, March 18th from 8:30am – 3:00pm (end time is subject to change depending on scheduled legislative visits). Below is a tentative schedule for this year's Youth Quest event.

8:00am – 9:00am	Registration
9:00am – 9:30am	Welcome and Event Overview
9:30am – 10:00am	Key Message Presentation
10:00am – 10:15am	Chant Activity
10:15am – 10:45am	Legislative Visit Training
10:45am – 11:30am	Legislative Visit Group Planning

11:30am – 12:30pm Lunch and Poster Making
12:30pm – 1:00pm March to the Capitol
1:00pm – 1:30pm Rally and Press Conference at the Capitol
1:30pm – 3:30pm Legislative Visits

Is CYAN able to provide financial support to organizations to assist with travel costs?

CTPP-funded organizations who are not able to attend Youth Quest or not able to bring all interested youth due to limited travel budgets can request a travel scholarship from CYAN. CYAN has a limited budget for travel scholarships. Requests will be reviewed in the order they are received and approved based on need and circumstance. Depending on our organizational budget, CYAN will let agencies know the amount of their approved scholarship.

In order to submit a request to CYAN, please email the following: total amount requested and line-item budget request with descriptions of expense (e.g., \$150 per flight x 3 attendees = \$450 for flights). Requests can be emailed to Jocelyn at jocelyn@cyanonline.org. All requests should be submitted by Friday, February 9th.

Is there a room block for this event at a local hotel?

CYAN does not have a room block for this event. The event will be held at the Convention Center which is across the street from the Sheraton Grand Hotel. The Sheraton may have available rooms; however, the hotel is not able to offer state rate. If you would like recommendations for hotels that are within a 10-15 minute drive of the Convention Center and may offer state rate, please contact Jocelyn at jocelyn@cyanonline.org.

Questions About Participation

Who should attend Youth Quest?

Youth Quest is a statewide youth event funded by CTPP. CYAN highly encourages local and regional organizations to invite youth advocates who are actively engaged in tobacco prevention in their community, and who are interested in discussing local activities with their state legislators.

Is there a limit on how many individuals from an organization can attend?

Coalitions can bring up to 6 youth and 2 adults. When registering, coalitions can indicate if they would like to bring more individuals. Organizations will be added to a waitlist to bring additional participants. The waitlist is based on date of registration. Once registration closes, CYAN will alert coalitions if space permits for them to bring more youth or adults.

What age youth can attend?

Youth Quest trainings and activities are designed for middle school and high school students.

Can young adults attend?

Young adults are welcome as one of the two adult coordinators from a coalition. Unfortunately, we do not have the capacity for young adult coalitions to attend Youth Quest. Exceptions are

made for youth 18-20 years old who are still active peers in a community-based youth coalition.

Can adults attend without youth partners?

Youth Quest is a youth-led event created to provide a space for youth to learn together and share their knowledge and experience with California legislators. The role of adult attendees is to provide youth support, serve as partners, and act as chaperones for youth attending from their local organization. Adults interested in attending without youth may contact CYAN about adult volunteer opportunities at the event; however, these opportunities are limited. Adults interested in participating in legislative visits are strongly encouraged to attend the American Heart Association's Information and Education Capitol Day event in Spring 2024. More information about this event is available at <https://organizingtoendtobacco.org>.

Are K-12 programs, such as TUPE Programs, able to attend?

School-based programs with Tobacco Use Prevention and Education funding are welcome to attend; however, there will be a \$89 per participant fee for attending the event. The fee will cover costs associated with a light breakfast, lunch and a T-shirt.

What training is CYAN providing at Youth Quest?

Participants will receive training on current tobacco prevention issues, event key messages, and how to conduct a legislative visit.

Will CYAN provide t-shirts?

T-shirts will be provided to all youth participants who attend the event. Youth will receive a t-shirt as their coalition registers onsite the morning of the event. If extra shirts are available, adult coordinators can receive a t-shirt after all youth have checked in onsite.

Questions About Registration

How can youth and adults register for the event?

Registration for this event will open on Tuesday, January 2 and close on Friday, February 2, 2024. Registration will be available on the CYAN website at www.cyanonline.org/youth-quest.

Registration will be a two-part process.

Step 1: CYAN is asking for adult coordinators to register on behalf of their coalitions. When registering, individuals will be asked to provide the following: adult coordinators' names, contact information, coalition name, anticipated number of youth attending, and legislative office(s) interested in visiting.

Step 2: After a coalition is registered to attend in-person, CYAN will send the primary adult coordinator additional registration materials. An internal electronic document will be used to register names of youth participants. Additionally, coordinators will be sent a liability and media release form, which should be distributed to all participants from that coalition. Liability forms will need to be signed by all participants over 18 or by parents/guardians for those under 18. Liability forms need to be sent to CYAN prior to traveling to Sacramento for the event.

Will CYAN provide media release forms?

Media release questions will be included in the liability release form distributed to all participants. While the liability release form is not optional, the media release questions are. If participants are not interested in their images being captured in Youth Quest pictures, they will be provided with a sticker to wear on their shirts the day of the event. The stickers indicate individuals who cannot be in images taken by CYAN.

The media release form and liability form will be available in English and Spanish.

Is there a cost to attend?

CTPP-Funded Coalitions: The event is free for youth and adults from coalitions that are coordinated by a CTPP-funded project.

Non CTPP-Funded Coalitions: Coalitions that do not receive direct funding from CTPP are welcome to attend; however, they will automatically be added to the waitlist at registration unless the group opts to pay the \$89 participant fee. If a coalition is unable to pay the participant fee, they can attend at no cost if space permits after all CTPP-funded coalitions have registered.

TUPE-Funded Groups: All school-based coalitions that are coordinated by a TUPE grant will need to pay a fee of \$89 per participant to cover expenses associated with meals and T-shirts.

All individuals attending the in-person event will receive a t-shirt, light breakfast snacks, and lunch provided by CYAN. Organizations will need to cover travel expenses such as mileage, airline and train tickets, and hotel expenses.

Questions About Preparing for Youth Quest

Will there be a Coordinator training prior to Youth Quest?

Yes! Prior to Youth Quest, CYAN hosts a webinar designed for adult coordinators to provide more information about the event and to answer any questions. **This webinar will be held on Thursday, February 22 at 10:00am – 11:00am.** Coordinators planning on attending Youth Quest can register for the webinar [here](#).

How should youth prepare prior to Youth Quest?

Participants are encouraged to review the online Youth Quest training course prior to traveling to Sacramento for the event. The course has four short modules that provide an overview of Youth Quest and what to expect, how to prepare for legislative visits, lobbying versus education, and a brief review of California's legislative process.

Youth and their adult coordinators can also prepare for Youth Quest by becoming familiar with tobacco control efforts and concerns in their communities. Attendees are encouraged to reach

out to other tobacco prevention and education groups in their local areas in order to gather information to include in their presentations. Participants can provide materials before or during their legislative visits to showcase their local work.

Will there be email reminders prior to the day of Youth Quest?

Yes, email reminders will be sent to all adult participants. Also, attendees can contact Jocelyn Rodriguez (jocelyn@cyanonline.org) at any time with questions or concerns.

Questions About Legislative Visits

What are legislative visits?

Legislative visits are educational meetings with state decision makers or their staff. During these visits, coalitions will meet with their assemblymember, senator, or a member of their state or district staff. These meetings provide coalitions an opportunity to educate legislative offices on current tobacco control priorities, local activities, and invite representatives to stay connected with tobacco prevention efforts.

Where do legislative visits take place?

The State Capitol is currently under construction and legislative offices are offsite at an annex building one block from the Capitol. If a coalition is too large to fit in a legislative office, CYAN may request for legislative visits to take place on the West Steps of the Capitol (where the Youth Quest rally and press conference are held).

Why are legislative visits required?

Youth Quest is a day of action that highlights youth advocacy in California. Educating decision makers is an effective form of advocacy. A legislative visit puts advocacy into action, essentially capturing the spirit of Youth Quest. CYAN would like Youth Quest to be a meaningful experience in which youth make a contribution and leave with a sense of accomplishment.

How do we find our legislators?

Coalitions should plan to have visits with legislators from the communities where they reside. The best way to identify your coalition's state representatives is to visit <http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov> and type in your office address. If your office is located in a different district than your youth in the coalition, it is recommended you use an address among your youth partners to determine their legislator.

Will CYAN schedule legislative visits?

Yes, CYAN will schedule all legislative visits. Please do not schedule your own legislative visit(s).

Will other groups be in our legislative visit(s)?

Legislative visits may be shared with other coalitions if they register for Youth Quest and are from your local area. To ensure youth partners from each coalition can share during the visit, CYAN will work closely with the primary adult coordinators from each coalition to coordinate visits.