

2021

**Youth
Leadership
Institute
Report**

YOUTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

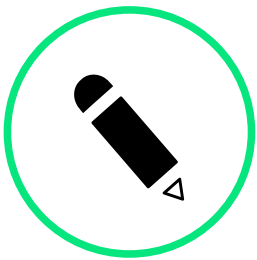
For the last 30 years, OC Human Relations has engaged young people in youth organizing and leadership development. We are committed to continuing our work with youth through spaces that cultivate an appreciation of diversity, inclusion, and equity in schools and communities.

In order to follow safety protocols amid COVID-19, we launched a week long interactive online institute bringing OC youth from diverse backgrounds to participate in activities, dialogues and skill building exercises about human relations and social justice issues. The institute was offered at no cost to Orange County high school students interested in developing their leadership skills to enact social change and improve the human relations climate in their communities. An in person drive thru graduation was held on the fifth day where students were provided a certificate, t-shirt, book, and other goodies thanks to the generous support of our donors and sponsors.

We created a website to showcase our 2021 cohort, publish our presented content for future use by students, and update the students of our program.

<https://sites.google.com/view/yli-2021/home>

TOPICS OF FOCUS



DAY 1

Self-Awareness, Identity Exploration & the History of Civil Rights in OC



DAY 2

Social Justice 101 & Introduction to Organizing



DAY 3

Developing your leadership skills: Finding and using your voice



DAY 4

Introduction to Restorative Justice & Circle Keeping

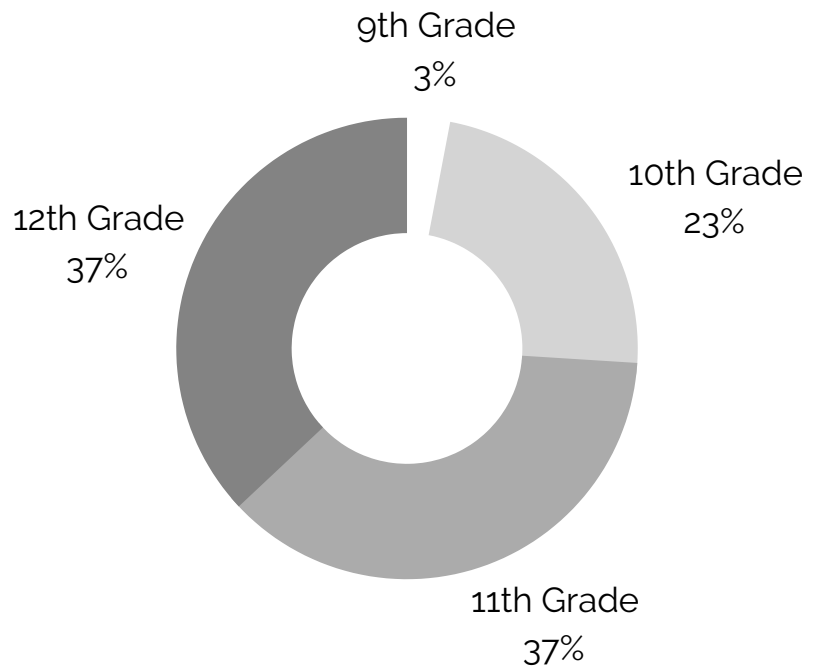


This year's cohort represented a diversity of high school students from across Orange County who are interested in social justice issues and leadership development for shaping the future.

✓ **56 Applications**

✓ **35 Accepted**

✓ **32 Graduates**



POST-YLI STUDENT SURVEY*

- 100%** reported awareness of different parts of their identities.
- 100%** reported awareness of and understanding of how historical events impacted their family and identities.
- 100%** reported gaining knowledge on how to use their voice to advocate for social change.
- 100%** reported building connections with other Orange County youth interested in social justice.
- 100%** reported gaining knowledge and understanding of how to create a power map.
- 93%** reported gaining knowledge and understand of what restorative justice is.
- 93%** reported learning about and understanding various youth led movements.
- 93%** reported learning about and understanding social justice terms.
- 71%** reported they gained knowledge and understanding of how to run a community building circle.

*Results reflect post-survey completed by 44% of graduates.

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

"I loved how much I learned and how supportive of a community this was. Everyone was eager to help those around them, and it made the experience that much better. Being able to learn so much in such a short span of time was fascinating, and I'm grateful that I was able to expand upon my passions."

"I learned a lot on how to be a leader and how I can use what I learn to better both myself and my community. The projects and leaders I met taught me a lot and meeting the new people in my house was really fun."

"I am truly grateful for everything that occurred over these past four days. The interactive activities were so engaging to participate in and I felt as though I had room to take space and make space. Gagandeep also helped by being hands-off in certain projects, that way we could be more independent and fully grasp the concepts ourselves. In all, I am extremely appreciative of the thought and work put into this entire experience, for I most definitely won't forget it."

"I really didn't know much about restorative justice and circle keeping and I feel like I have a very good understanding of both and I plan on incorporating what I learned into my everyday life."

"I learned about other people and learned how to help support others and bring out the best of them as well."

"Finding one's voice through the interactions and discussions we had helped each student improve their own view of what it means to lead their own group of fellow advocates."