

Youth Center for North America



Introduction

About

Youth Center for North America (YCNA) is dedicated to creating and planning opportunities for young people to come together and build vibrant communities. Our mission is rooted in fostering unity and fraternity among all people, inspiring and mobilizing youth to live for a more united world.

Vision and Mission

- **Vision:** A united world where fraternity is lived among all people.
- **Mission:** To inspire and mobilize young people from all backgrounds to live for a more united world.

Inspiration and Purpose

YCNA draws inspiration from Focolare founder Chiara Lubich, [Blessed Chiara Luce Badano](#) and Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*. We believe in the urgent need to address the ecological crisis facing our planet and to take responsibility for caring for our common home.

What We Do

Overview of YCNA's Activities

Youth Center for North America (YCNA) engages in a variety of activities and programs aimed at fostering community, promoting unity, and addressing environmental challenges. Our initiatives include:

1. **Community Building:** We organize events and activities that bring young people together to build connections, foster friendships, and promote a sense of belonging.
2. **Educational Programs:** YCNA offers educational workshops, retreats, and campaigns to raise awareness about sustainable living practices and the importance of unity and fraternity, with a focus on [leadership training](#).
3. **Advocacy and Outreach:** We advocate for environmentally friendly policies, support local initiatives, and collaborate with stakeholders to promote positive change in communities.

What people are doing

Question: Does your daily lifestyle (working out, exercise, outdoor activity) cause you to care about our planet (environment) in a special way?

Answer: My daily lifestyle does cause me to care about the environment. I prioritize activities outside when I can. Noticing and appreciating clean and lush green surroundings, I attempt to keep these outdoor spaces as natural as possible and express this wish to others to help them see and appreciate nature as clean as it can be. Noticing that I can implement recycling, limiting waste when I can and observing other people's habits makes me cautious about my own impacts. (Chris, age 27)

The Plan - Concrete Actions

Earth Day is a celebration for environmental awareness and action on Monday, April 22, 2024!

"EARTHDAY.ORG is unwavering in our commitment to end plastics for the sake of human and planetary health, demanding a 60% reduction in the production of ALL plastics by 2040. Our theme, Planet vs. Plastics, calls to advocate for widespread awareness on the health risk of plastics, rapidly phase out all single use plastics, urgently push for a strong UN Treaty on Plastic Pollution, and demand an end to fast fashion." (www.earthday.org)

We too want to do our part to build a plastic-free planet for generations to come!

1. Sustainable Practices at Home and in the Office

- **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle:** Implement a "Zero Waste" policy at home and in the office, prioritizing waste reduction, reuse of materials, and proper recycling practices. Let's use reusable containers, utensils, and bags to minimize single use plastics.
- **Energy Conservation:** Embrace energy-saving habits such as turning off lights and electronics when not in use, using energy-efficient appliances, and exploring renewable energy options like solar panels. Let's implement a "power down" policy at the office to reduce energy consumption during non-working hours.
- **Water Stewardship:** Install water-saving fixtures, conduct regular checks for leaks, and educate individuals on mindful water usage. Let's use rainwater harvesting systems and greywater recycling to conserve water resources.
- **Local Sourcing:** Support local farmers, businesses, and artisans by purchasing locally sourced products and services. Foster partnerships with community organizations and farmers' markets to promote sustainable and ethical consumption practices.

2. Eco-Friendly Lifestyle Choices with Friends and Family / During Errands

- **Promote Reusables:** In 2024 the focus is on single-use plastic reduction! Let's use reusable shopping bags, water bottles, and coffee cups. Also with friends, family, and colleagues.

- **Community Clean-Ups:** Organize or participate in neighborhood clean-up events, beach clean-ups, or park beautification projects. Engage with local environmental groups and authorities to coordinate larger-scale clean-up efforts and raise awareness about littering and pollution.

3. Environmental Impact of These Actions

By embracing these sustainable practices, individuals and communities can significantly reduce their environmental footprint and contribute to a healthier planet. These actions lead to waste reduction, resource conservation, lower carbon emissions, and the preservation of natural ecosystems.

Re-cap

- 1) Use reusable containers, water bottles and bags
- 2) Turn off lights and electronics when not in use
- 3) Buy energy-efficient appliances
- 4) Save water
- 5) Fix leaks
- 6) Buy from local farmers
- 7) Share what you are doing: send a message or pictures



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