



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Karen Brown (916) 294-7426

karen@hands4hopeyouth.org

www.hands4hopeyouth.org

[View Downloadable Photos](#)

Hands4Hope Youth Leaders Build Skills for Community Impact

While many students were taking a break from school, nearly 50 Hands4Hope - Youth Making A Difference participants invested part of their summer in becoming stronger leaders and preparing to make a difference in their communities.

Participants came from all over, from Folsom to South Lake Tahoe, and included many youth who had not met or worked together before. During three-day Middle and High School Leadership Camps, participants practiced the skills they will use to lead Hands4Hope Clubs and After-School Committees throughout the coming school year. Through interactive workshops, mock meetings, team challenges and plenty of fun, they strengthened their communication, goal-setting, teamwork and facilitation skills.

They also learned how to guide their peers through Hands4Hope's unique five-stage service-learning process of Investigation, Planning and Preparation, Action, Reflection, and Demonstration. This process empowers young people to identify real community needs and develop meaningful projects in response.

Experienced youth leaders appointed to the Hands4Hope Youth Board Executive Committee helped facilitate the camps alongside Education Program staff, giving camp participants the opportunity to learn directly from their peers.

"I had the pleasure of helping lead both the Middle and High School camps for my second summer," shared Adi Laufer, Hands4Hope Youth Board Public Relations Coordinator, and a junior at Folsom High School. "Although I am the one 'teaching' others, I am learning so much along the way. I get to see quieter leaders step outside their comfort zones, find their voices and truly shine. Helping my peers feel connected and prepared to turn their ideas into a difference in their communities is truly magical."

By the end of camp, participants reported feeling prepared to lead their own meetings and confident in their ability to welcome and inspire their peers, investigate community needs, turn ideas into action, and lead service projects that will make a lasting difference.

Their summer investment is just the beginning of Hands4Hope's 19th year of youth-led service, leadership development, and community action.

Students wishing to participate in Hands4Hope - Youth Making A Difference on-campus clubs led by these trained youth under the guidance of Hands4Hope Staff Mentors can apply now by visiting Hands4Hope's website. Middle school club sites include: Camerado Springs, Edwin Markham, Herbert Green, Marina Village, Pleasant Grove, Rolling Hills, and South Tahoe Middle Schools. High school club sites include: El Dorado, Oak Ridge, Ponderosa, South Tahoe High, and Union Mine.

Hands4Hope After-School Committees operate on a seasonal and project basis, and the next committees to open for applications will be in September: Winter Boutique Committee and Empty Bowls Committee. These committees are open to 6th-12th grade youth from any school/homeschool.

About Hands4Hope – Youth Making A Difference

Founded in 2008, Hands4Hope - Youth Making A Difference is a nonprofit youth driven organization with the mission to inspire and empower youth in leadership and service. Hands4Hope - Youth Making A Difference offers hands-on education and outreach opportunities to youth in middle and high school through on-campus and after-school programs and community outreaches in Sacramento and El Dorado Counties. For more information about Hands4Hope - Youth Making A Difference, visit www.hands4hopeyouth.org or call 916-294-7426.

[View Hands4Hope - Youth Making A Difference Photos](#)
[Suitable for Publication](#)