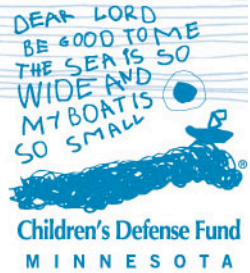


10-10-10 March for Children and Youth Because *All Our Youth Need Positive Out-of-School Time Opportunities*



High quality, out-of-school time learning opportunities provide young people time to explore their interests, connect with the community, and interact with caring adults. These opportunities benefit youth academically, civically, socially and emotionally.

Youth want safe places to go, grow, learn, work, and interact with one another.

- Youth have approximately 2,000 hours of discretionary time available each year outside of school time. This is equivalent to a full-time job.
- Over half of youth participate in activities out-of-school during the school year, while participation drops to 28 percent during the summer months. Summer is the most difficult time to find productive things for kids.
- The most common activities for youth are sports, religious instruction or youth groups, volunteer work, school-based extracurricular activities, and fine arts.

Research confirms that participation in after school and summer programs reap a host of positive academic, social, prevention, and health benefits.

- Participation in out-of-school programs is associated with better attitudes towards school, improved academic test scores, and higher educational aspirations.
- Students in out-of-school programs experience higher graduation rates, improved homework completion, and increased engagement in learning.
- Participation is associated with decreased behavior problems, improved social skills, increased self-confidence, lower levels of depression and anxiety and reduced use of alcohol and drugs.
- Quality youth development programs can cut crime and transform the prime time for juvenile crime, between 3pm and 6pm, into hours of enrichment and community service.

Opportunities to participate in Minnesota's out-of-school time activities are not equally accessible for all families.

- Research surveying youth and parents in Minnesota show low-income families and families in the urban metro area are especially likely to experience a gap in opportunities – either because they are not affordable, not high quality or not available in their community.
- This disparity may be a contributing factor in the achievement gap between students of color and white students.

Minnesota can offer every community high quality out-of-school time learning opportunities.

High quality after school programs have appropriate supervision and structure; well-prepared staff; intentional programming with opportunities for independence and choice; and strong state and local partnerships with organizations in the community.

Question for Candidates:

If elected, what will you do to provide youth with high quality opportunities outside of school time?