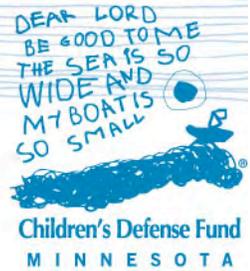


# 10-10-10 March for Children and Youth Because *All Children and Youth Need Positive Out-of-School Time Opportunities*



**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?