

YOUTH LEAD NOW!



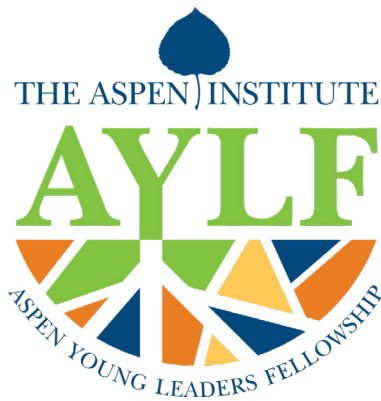
THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

Finding Your Movement:
How Discovering Your Passion
Can Lead to Societal Change



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The Aspen Young Leaders Fellowship (AYLF) identifies, cultivates, and amplifies future generations of talent to engage in the values-based leadership essential for transforming their lives and society for the better. AYLF is a place-based, multi-site program that nurtures a cadre of diverse youth committed to addressing the most compelling social, political, and scientific issues facing their communities.

The Aspen Challenge aims to help young people INSPIRE, ENGAGE, & LEAD. Young people are moments away from being tomorrow's decision-makers and this program offers them a chance to practice their critical thinking, tap into their creativity, and offer their fresh perspective on issues within our society.



Wyzant is Youth Lead Now!'s go-to platform that connects youth of any age with expert online tutors. From help staying on track, to exam prep, to upskilling so you're competitive in the job market, Wyzant tutors specialize in student success. The impact of personalized instruction goes well beyond the classroom by empowering every student to build confidence, resilience, and mastery.

To see our community and partner organizations across the nation, visit the [Youth Lead Now! Website.](#)



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About **YOUTH LEAD NOW!**

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Youth Lead Now! is an initiative of The Aspen Institute that brings expert, national speakers into the living rooms of youth and families. These virtual monthly events provide an opportunity to build protective factors necessary for resilience while also motivating youth to stay engaged with community action. The ability to leverage the Institute's network – in service of our young leaders and local communities – could be one of the strongest symbolic messages of hope that we can provide when it is needed the most.

Youth Lead Now! is structured as a monthly, virtual townhall. Each session will feature a notable, national leader around a specific leadership theme with the underlying goal of building resilience, leadership efficacy, and agency.

Every session of Youth Lead Now! will address these fundamental questions:

1. Why are youth essential for community-driven leadership?
2. What is needed from youth leaders in the current crisis?
3. How can youth and families foster hope in the face of adversity as they lead their communities?



April 16, 2020 Youth Lead Now! featuring former U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and moderators Kriste Dragon and Jasmine Adams.

Live Q&A

During the live Q&A portion of the Youth Lead Now! session, two graduates of Aspen Institute Youth Programs will moderate questions from the audience.

To submit a question, use the Q&A feature on Zoom and include your **name** and **location** (town/city) followed by your question. Ideal questions for this format are succinct and clearly worded. Feel free to ask about the featured speaker's personal experiences, the work of the organization(s) with which they are involved, or their insights on issues facing our society today. This is a forum for youth engagement so we

About Leah Thomas



Leah Thomas is an intersectional environmental activist and eco-communicator based in Southern California. She is passionate about advocating for and exploring the relationship between social justice and environmentalism. Thomas's services include helping businesses integrate intersectional environmentalism and social justice into their brand mission statements, strategies, and special projects.

Her writing can be found on her blog at greengirlleah.com and on The Good Trade, a sustainable fashion, wellness, and lifestyle platform. Thomas was on the communications team at Patagonia and recently authored the article, "Why every environmentalist should be anti-racist" for *Vogue*. She is a 2017 graduate of Chapman University with a BS in environmental science and policy.

Interactive Biography

[Why Every Environmentalist Should Be Anti-Racist | Vogue | 2020](#)

Leah Thomas on why every environmentalist should be anti-racist

[Environmentalists for Black Lives Matter Video | BuzzFeed | 2020](#)

Why Leah's post about Environmentalists for Black Lives Matter went viral.

[1% for the Planet Podcast S3 Episode 1: Leah Thomas | 1% for the Planet | 2020](#)

Leah Thomas discusses systemic racism, lack of inclusion and how to help fix it, allyship and how we can't achieve climate success without first confronting and defeating racism with 1% for the Planet's Planet CEO Kate Williams.

[Creative Conversations: Green Girl Leah's Leah Thomas | This is Range | 2019](#)

Leah Thomas on her journey to becoming an intersectional environmentalist.

[Intersectional Environmentalism Is Our Urgent Way Forward | Youth to the People | 2020](#)

Leah Thomas on the intertwined nature of being Black and an environmentalist, and how Intersectional Environmentalism was born.

[How To Uplift The Voices Of Young Climate Activists Of Color | The Good Trade | 2020](#)

Leah Thomas explains how to support climate voices who are all too often ignored.

[What Environmentalists Can Learn From The Black Lives Matter Movement | The Good Trade | 2020](#)

Leah Thomas on how climate activists and the Black Lives Matter Movement both fight against a system of power that mistreats people and the planet.

