

YOUNG AMERICA'S FOUNDATION



**FREEDOM IS NEVER MORE THAN ONE
GENERATION AWAY FROM EXTINCTION**



Middle School Expedition | May 3-4

Reagan Boyhood Home High School Conference | July 18-20



August 28, 2024

Dear Young America's Foundation Supporter,

Thank you for your generous investment in our work at the Reagan Boyhood Home to recruit and educate more young people from across the Midwest with conservative ideas. Your \$100,000 gift allowed us to host our 2024 Middle School Expedition on May 3 & 4 and our 2024 Reagan Boyhood Home High School Conference on July 18–20.

Growing up in Dixon, Illinois, was a formative experience for Ronald Reagan, helping him develop the values that guided him throughout his life and Presidency. As Reagan said of his hometown,

“All of us have to have a place we go back to. Dixon is that place for me. There was the life that has shaped my body and mind for all the years to come.”

Young America's Foundation is ensuring that Ronald Reagan's boyhood home and legacy are preserved for future generations, much like how we have preserved and protected the Reagan Ranch in Santa Barbara, California, for more than 25 years. We recognize that this Presidential site is an excellent educational venue for students and families from across the Midwest to learn the significance of Ronald Reagan and his lasting ideas.

Your support of our middle school and high school students has played a key role in ensuring that YAF is the leading conservative youth outreach organization. Your generosity gives students the opportunity to learn from highly effective, thoughtful, and articulate conservative leaders. You are providing life-changing programs and training that inspire and educate our future leaders. As our nation faces an uphill battle to defend and preserve freedom, these programs and resources are needed now more than ever.

The enclosed report conveys the transformative impact you are having on the next generation. I hope you are encouraged by the results and consider continuing your support of our promising students.

Keep Fighting for Freedom,



Governor Scott Walker
President

2024 MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPEDITION | MAY 3-4



Young America's Foundation hosted middle school students for an enriching Expedition at the Reagan Boyhood Home in Dixon, Illinois on May 3 and 4. The students represented three states and came from a variety of schools, co-ops, and home schools. The program marked the first YAF experience for 90% of the participants.

The weekend began with a banquet dinner at the Post House Ballroom. Author and professor **Dr. Paul Kengor** captivated everyone with an insightful talk about seven pivotal moments in Ronald Reagan's early life. His speech, particularly the theme of overcoming early hardships to achieve greatness resonated deeply with the students.

The next day, students engaged in dynamic teaching sessions at the Northwest Territory Historic Center led by **Kali Fontanilla** and

Dr. Michael Clark. Both sessions featured interactive games and simulations, bringing historical and public policy concepts to life.

A standout activity was the Reagan Resilience Challenge at Page Park, overseen by a new contributor to YAF's Middle Expeditions, Special Forces Green Beret (Ret). **Chris Johnson**. Modeled after military Leadership Reaction Courses, the challenge required students to work in teams to solve problems with limited resources. Team leaders observed and reported on the leadership qualities displayed, providing valuable feedback.

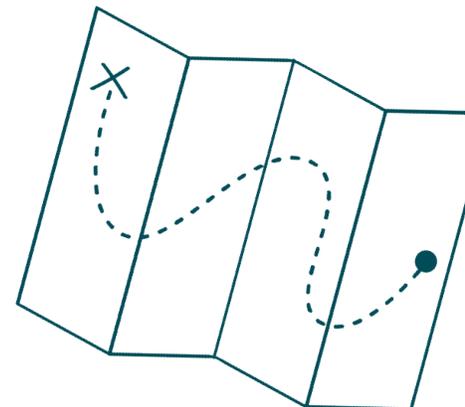
Later in the day, the young participants enjoyed a memorable tour of the Reagan Boyhood Home, where stories of Reagan's formative years came to life in the humble home that shaped his character and values.

Students' response to the Middle School Expedition has been overwhelmingly positive, with many noting that the experience inspired them to emulate President Reagan's resilience and patriotism.

The program received high ratings, particularly for the Reagan Resilience Challenge and the Reagan Boyhood Home tour. The Expedition also deepened the students' appreciation for American history and instilled values to guide them in their personal journeys.

Following the program, one mother shared the impact on her young son, noting:

"Deaglan has been carrying around his pocket constitution that he was given at the event. He has been annotating it to learn about his unalienable rights. He likes to pull it out to use in debates at his school and share it with his friends!"





“
Thanks for giving us the opportunity to enjoy this experience.

I like the things being taught to the next generation of Americans. Thank you.
”

Responses like these show the **impact** of these **unique YAF programs**, which inspire **future leaders** to learn more about America and the importance of **freedom**.

“
Thank you, this program was really fun, and I know a lot of things I didn't know before.

[This program] inspired me to be a patriot.

[This program] will help me to try to make my life more like Ronald Reagan's.
”



2024 REAGAN BOYHOOD HOME

HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE | JULY 18-20



From July 18 to 20, Young America's Foundation welcomed young people from around the country to Dixon, Illinois, for YAF's sold-out High School Conference at the Boyhood Home.

Historian, author, and YAF's longest-serving faculty member **Dr. Burt Folsom** opened the program with a story about the importance of liberty. He captivated the students with a stirring account of John Newton's conversion from an atheistic slave trader to a Christian abolitionist, demonstrating the importance of liberty.

The next morning, Wisconsin Right to Life Legislative Director **Gracie Skogman** taught the students how to effectively create pro-life narratives and persuasively argue against abortion.

Dr. Folsom returned to the stage to share inspirational stories of American heroes who overcame great obstacles. He explained, "Identity politics says where you're born is where you stay. This is America, and your destiny. You have a big

role in what that's going to be."

YAF supporters and community members joined the students for the Reagan Boyhood Home Roundtable Luncheon featuring North Korean defector and author **Yeonmi Park**. Park shared her harrowing story of escaping from North Korea and warned against the dangers of socialism, stating,



"Humans are capable of doing unbelievably stupid things when you believe in a socialist paradise. And we are on that path, and that's why I'm here telling you [America] is genuinely the best country in human history."

That afternoon, students enjoyed memorable tours of the Reagan Birthplace in Tampico, Illinois, and the Reagan Boyhood Home in Dixon. They encountered the Midwestern towns and values that prepared young Ronald Reagan for a lifetime of service and leadership.

The day concluded with a barbecue at Lowell Park, where young Ronald Reagan served as a lifeguard.

Governor Scott Walker addressed the students on the banks of the Rock River, encouraging them to be champions for freedom in their communities.

The next day, syndicated columnist and podcast host **Ian Haworth** exposed the ties between radical leftism and radical Islam.

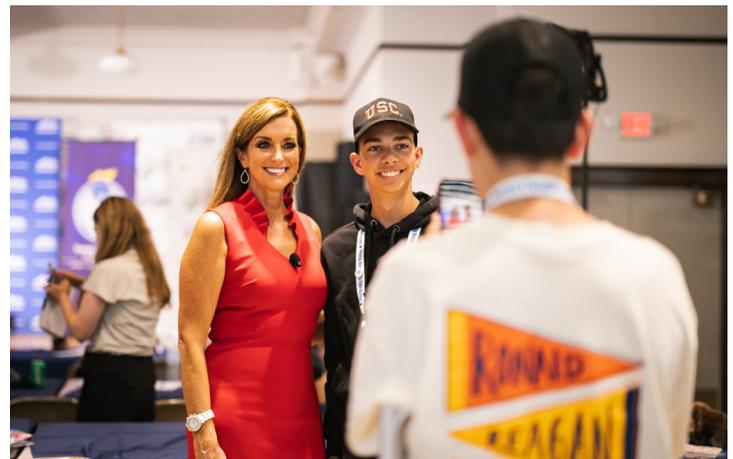
Ambassador for the Independent Women's Forum **Paula Scanlan** then shared her story of bravely opposing radical transgender ideology. She encouraged the students, "Don't be afraid to lose a few friends if you share a controversial viewpoint because, at the end of the day, you have to be true to what you believe in to succeed."

Milwaukee-based talk radio host **Dan O'Donnell** next encouraged the students to stand strong for their values.

In the afternoon, students heard from **Peggy Grande**, who reflected on her experience serving as President Reagan's executive assistant after he left the White House.

YAF Conference Director **Madison Habersetzer** wrapped up the weekend, giving the students strategies and tips for being happy warriors and effective advocates for freedom on campus. Liam Jenks from Chaminade College Prep expressed his appreciation for this unique YAF program:

"I have learned a lot about President Reagan and now view him as a role model and a great American. The speakers were very moving and strengthened my conservative values. It is important for young conservatives to see they aren't alone in this woke world."





I can't thank you enough for all your support and generosity that makes these conferences possible! It is so incredible to be able to gather with so many people my age who share my values and encourage me to stand up for truth. Being here in Dixon, visiting the boyhood home of the greatest president in history, and hearing from so many amazing speakers is an incredible experience and an opportunity I probably would never have had without your generosity. So thank you! Thank you for your faith in our generation and your hope for my future.

Apple Bolton
Chico California



Thank you so much for helping make this weekend possible! It is always the highlight of my year anytime I get to attend any YAF event. This year had some of the most emotionally powerful and logically sound speakers I've ever had the honor of hearing. As I prepare to attend college in the fall, I take comfort in knowing YAF is raising up such an incredible new generation of conservatives. God bless you and may He smile on our country!

Noble Platter
Fort Wayne Indiana '24



This weekend, I have had the opportunity to hear from amazing speakers and the ability to go on two educational tours. I am so thankful I was able to step away from the crazy world around me and enter into an environment of growth and support. This weekend, I have been inspired to do my best to attend more conferences in the future. I was especially encouraged by Yeonmi Park. She reminded me that people are truly amazing and are able to thrive even after horrendous hardships. Thank you for making this weekend possible!

Jacie Roe
Faith Christian School

THANK YOU!



With your help, YAF will continue to raise up the next generation of leaders who share President Reagan vision, values, and lasting accomplishments which have and will continue to make this country great. I hope you feel encouraged that your support is making conferences like this possible for young people to hear and be inspired by our conservative ideas.

Thank you for your commitment to training the next generation of American leaders.





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