

HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE AT THE **REAGAN** **RANCH**

MARCH 19-22, 2025 | SANTA BARBARA, CA

A SPECIAL REPORT PREPARED FOR MR. & MRS. MALONE





Thank you for making the March 2025 High School Conference at the Reagan Ranch an unforgettable experience for the next generation of conservative leaders!



High school students from 18 states gathered at Rancho del Cielo for four days of learning, connection, and inspiration. **For nearly 60% of attendees, it was their very first YAF conference.** Thanks to you, many of them left not just more informed, but also transformed.

Student Trace Chadwick remarked, *"I love the community that YAF is. A bold conservative community. One that actually talks about the problems of today. One that fights for what they believe in. One that comes together to lead America to a better future. I thank you from the bottom of my heart that I got to attend this life-changing experience."*

BY THE NUMBERS:

56 high schools and homeschool groups represented

18 states represented, including AL, AR, CA, CT, ID, IL, IN, KS, MD, MO, NC, NV, NY, OR, TN, TX, WA, and WI

57% first-time YAF attendees

99% of students surveyed said the conference increased their patriotism and appreciation for American values



At this conference, we launched our new **Leadership Squad** program, where standout students assisted with logistics, welcomed new attendees, introduced speakers, and helped facilitate the program. Their eagerness and enthusiasm made a lasting impression, and we look forward to continuing this program at upcoming conferences. Members of the inaugural Leadership Squad are pictured here.



CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



LT. COL.
ALLEN WEST



ANNA
STRASBURG



CHLOE
COLE



DANIEL DI
MARTINO



DR. AWR
HAWKINS



DR. BURT
FOLSOM



GOVERNOR
SCOTT WALKER



DANIEL
TURNER



CHARLIE
JONES



MARK
JOSEPH



JOSH
HAMMER



CONGRESSMAN
CHIP ROY



CONGRESSMAN
TOM MCCLINTOCK



SHAVIT
ROOTMAN



On Wednesday evening, Congressman **Chip Roy** (TX-21) opened the conference with an inspiring reflection on D-Day. He spoke on the courage of the young soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve freedom for future generations.

The next morning, Dr. **Burt Folsom**, YAF's longest-serving faculty member, gave an energetic history lesson on how the United States ascended to global power.



He was followed by activist and detransitioner **Chloe Cole**. Cole is a survivor of radical gender ideology. She powerfully stated, "[Leftists] view people like me as an existential threat. My story challenges the narrative they cling to so rabidly...Shining light on the flaws of their ideology feels like an attack on their very souls."





Thursday afternoon, students discovered why President Reagan named his beloved ranch “Rancho del Cielo” and famously remarked, “We relax at the ranch, which if not Heaven itself, probably has the same ZIP code.”

They toured his Ranch home, tack barn, and Secret Service Command Post and cruised through his trails in open-air Jeeps.





Students were greeted in the Hay Barn by *Reagan* film producer **Mark Joseph**. In this special session, Joseph gave students an exclusive look at the movie's production.



Later that evening, YAF Chief Communications Officer **Spencer Brown** interviewed **Shavit Rootman**, a former Duvdevan soldier in the Israel Defense Forces. Rootman emphasized how Judeo-Christian values serve as the foundation of the U.S.-Israel alliance.

Dr. Folsom then returned to the stage to deliver a lesson on how freedom and entrepreneurship define America as the land of opportunity and prosperity.

On Friday morning, Governor **Scott Walker** encouraged students to stand firm for freedom and truth. He told them, “As conservatives, we’re the ones who have a united message. We believe in freedom and opportunity for everyone. The Left wants to divide us. We believe that anyone in America has the right to pursue the American Dream.”



Author and commentator **Josh Hammer** delivered a crash course on defending Western civilization and signed copies of his latest book, *Israel and Civilization: The Fate of the Jewish Nation and the Destiny of the West*.

To wrap up the afternoon, Congressman **Tom McClintock** discussed the ongoing struggle to defend freedom against tyranny.





WENDY P. MCCAOW REAGAN RANCH ROUNDTABLE

Featuring Lt. Col. **Allen West**

Lt. Col. West then delivered an incredibly inspiring message to an audience of more than 400 students, supporters, and friends at the Wendy P. McCaw Roundtable. His remarks were a standout highlight of the program! He discussed the historic 1775 Battles of Lexington and Concord to emphasize the significance of fighting for freedom and upholding the Constitution today. West stated, “We must continue to tell these stories. If we don’t do it, someone will tell a different story. We must continue to pass on understanding what living in this Constitutional Republic means because we have that responsibility.”



Lt. Col. West encourages student **Dominic LiVecche** to “take the baton” and become a courageous leader and champion for freedom in our country.

“The task and purpose that we have is to pass a torch...We have to inspire the next generation of young men and young women. And I see that happening every time I come to a YAF event. I see that you’re committed to these young people...because life is not about what we achieve ourselves. Life is about the legacy we leave to subsequent generations.”



The final day of the conference focused on significant policy issues. **Daniel Turner**, founder of Power the Future, highlighted the dangers of radical environmentalism.

Daniel Di Martino, founder of the Dissident Project, shared how socialism devastated his home country of Venezuela.

Dr. **AWR Hawkins**, *Breitbart* Second Amendment columnist, presented a compelling case for gun rights, stating, "The more limited the government is, the more free the people are."

In the afternoon, **Anna Strasburg**, pro-life activist and founder of If Life, passionately defended the unborn.

To wrap up the programming, YAF Program Officer **Charlie Jones** offered guidance on starting and leading an effective YAF chapter on campus.



Thank you, Mr. & Mrs. Malone, for your lead gift that made this program possible! Students left the Reagan Ranch energized and prepared to advocate for freedom, truth, and conservative principles within their communities. Your generosity is not only appreciated—it's producing real results.



"I had no idea what to expect about this experience, but I am so grateful that I decided to attend. I have learned more than I thought possible and have met friends who share my beliefs—friendships I know will last for years."

- Juliana Par

"This conference has taught me how important my responsibility is as a U.S. citizen to uphold the Constitution and fight for my rights. This conference has inspired me to start my own YAF chapter at my school and encourage the grades below me to participate."

- Ella Sterling



"On behalf of YAF and the rest of the students at the Reagan Ranch, I thank you for your generous donation to the cause of freedom, liberty, and prosperity. Your contribution has helped shape and form countless students through the work of YAF. As part of the student leadership on this trip, I have seen encouragement, and a sense of responsibility rekindled in many of the students here."

- Dominic LiVecche





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810 S. Hennepin Avenue, Dixon, Illinois 61021

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