

Dream Out Loud Conference Attracts 145 Youth with Diverse Career Goals and Strong Full-Day Commitment

Executive Summary

The Dream Out Loud Youth Conference registration survey captured responses from 145 young people, revealing strong commitment to full-day participation and diverse career aspirations. Attendees show sustained engagement across all time slots, with 77% confirming morning attendance and 63% expressing enthusiasm for the closing session. Workshop preferences differ significantly by gender, with female attendees gravitating toward self-confidence programming and male attendees preferring hands-on activities like boxing-based emotional management. Career dreams span practical employment goals, creative industries, and financial stability, with 58% of respondents articulating career-focused aspirations. The conference has successfully engaged multiple schools and youth programs, with CORE Academy and CCH Tech and Trade each bringing 19% of identified group attendees. These findings indicate the conference is meeting a real need for youth seeking both creative exploration and practical career guidance.

145 Total Registrations | 77% Confirmed Morning Attendance | 58% Career-Focused Dreams

Survey: **Dream Out Loud Youth Conference Registration**

145 total responses | Created 16 February 2026

Key Findings

Strong Commitment to Full-Day Participation

The conference shows high engagement across all time slots. 77% of registrants (111 of 145) confirmed they will attend the 9:00am registration and breakfast, with only 2% planning to miss it. For the opening session at 9:30am, 68% expressed enthusiasm with "Yes, I can't wait" and another 32% indicated they would likely be on time. The closing resource sign-up at 1:55pm maintains solid interest, with 63% responding positively (combining "Yes, sound great" at 57% and "Yes, excited to join" at 6%), while 37% remain unsure. This sustained commitment throughout the day indicates strong interest in the conference programming and resources.

Workshop Preferences Differ Significantly by Gender

Male and female attendees show distinct preferences for the 10:00am workshop session. Among female attendees (n=48), "Unstoppable You: Cultivating Self-Love, Confidence, and Limitless Mindset" is the top choice at 35%, followed by "Keys to Building Momentum for Success" at 31%. In contrast, male attendees (n=97) prefer "Healing Mitts" (managing emotions through boxing) at 30%, with "Keys to Building Momentum" at 27%. The self-love and confidence workshop draws nearly twice the interest from female attendees (35%) compared to male attendees (19%), while the boxing-based emotional management workshop attracts five times more male interest (30%) than female interest (6%).

These patterns suggest that workshop marketing and future programming should consider gender-specific interests to maximize engagement.

Career Aspirations Span Diverse Pathways with Strong Practical Focus

When asked "What Dream will you cast at Dream Out Loud?", 65 respondents provided career-focused answers that reveal practical ambitions. The most common theme is Specific Career Paths (22% of those with career dreams, including roles like nurse, mechanic, and teacher), followed by Employment Stability (17%, expressing desire for "a good job" or steady work). Arts and Entertainment Careers account for 14%, while Financial Wealth represents 9%. Across the three largest racial/ethnic groups, Black or African American respondents (n=78) show the highest interest in Arts and Entertainment (15% of their career responses) compared to Hispanic or Latino respondents (12% of n=51) and White respondents (10% of n=20). Employment Stability resonates equally with Hispanic or Latino respondents (20%) and Black or African American respondents (15%). These findings suggest the conference should balance creative career exploration with practical skill-building and job readiness programming.

Afternoon Workshop Demand Reveals Interest in Creative Industries and Life Planning

The 12:50pm workshop session shows strong interest in future-focused programming. "Dream it, Believe it, Achieve it" (learning how to map your future) attracted the highest registration at 31% of attendees (45 of 145), followed by "Fashion Design" at 25% (36 attendees). "Fresh Films" (film industry and internships) drew 10%, while 20% indicated they cannot attend this time slot. The popularity of the life-planning workshop suggests attendees are seeking concrete tools for goal-setting and career navigation, not just exposure to specific industries. The combined interest in creative fields (Fashion Design and Fresh Films together represent 34% of those attending this session) reinforces the need for programming that connects artistic interests to viable career pathways.

Group Affiliations Show Strong School and Program Representation

Among the 58 respondents who provided identifiable group affiliations (rather than "NA"), CORE Academy and CCH Tech and Trade each brought 11 attendees (19% each), followed by Menta Academy DeKalb with 7 attendees (12%). Fox Tech Transition, Menta Academy Chicago West, and Proviso East High School each contributed 5 attendees (9% each). This distribution indicates successful outreach across multiple educational institutions and programs, with particularly strong partnerships with CORE Academy and CCH Tech and Trade. The presence of multiple Menta Academy locations (Hillside, Chicago West, DeKalb) suggests this organization is a key pipeline for youth participation. Future conferences should maintain these partnerships while exploring opportunities to expand reach to underrepresented schools and programs.