

Young Authors Conference

A Field Trip for Grades 4-8

March 19, 2026
May 26-28, 2026
8:30 am - 1:35 pm
Bethel University

The **Young Authors Conference (YAC)** is an inspiring one-day field trip where students who love to read and write learn from Minnesota authors.

Benefits to Students

- Discovering new writing skills and strategies taught by local authors
- Exploring a book fair hosted by Red Balloon Bookshop and sharing their writing during the Open Mic sessions
- Practicing independence while navigating a college campus
- Experiencing an interactive day of learning that aligns with several Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards (learn more at sparkpath.org/mnstandards)

Agenda

9:00 - 9:40 am - Welcome and Keynote
9:50 - 10:40 am - Session 1
10:50 - 11:40 am - Session 2 or Lunch
11:45 am - 12:35 pm - Session 3 or Lunch
12:40 - 1:35 pm - Session 4

2025 sessions included: Songwriting, Poetry, Character Building, Outlining, Editing, Journalism, World Building, Science Fiction, and many other creative exercises and interactive writing activities.

Program Feedback

95% of students said that YAC presenters encouraged and challenged them.

98% of students said that YAC gave them new strategies, ideas, and skills to become stronger writers.

- "I learned to speak up and be yourself. Don't care what others think, be brave."—YAC 6th grader
- "I think the variety is the BEST. Each student has different likes and dislikes."—YAC elementary school teacher

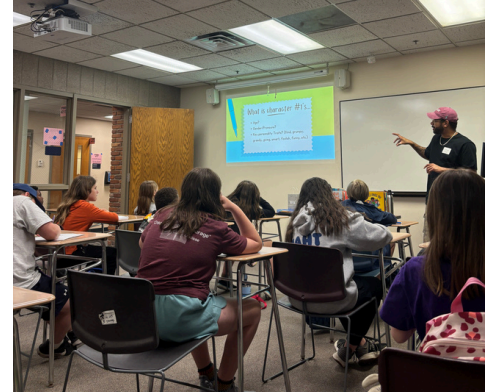
BrightWorks Member: Early Bird \$42/student (Regular Rate \$44)

Non-Member: Early Bird \$56/student (Regular Rate \$58)

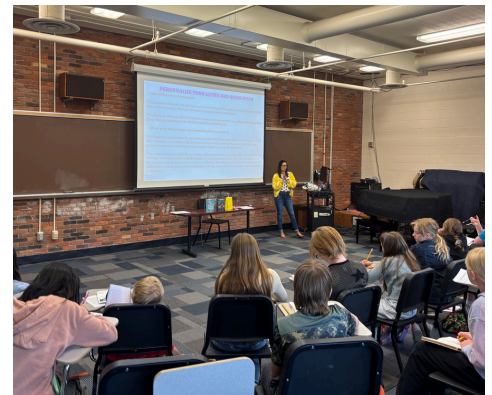
March Early Bird deadline is December 23.

May Early Bird deadline is March 4.

SparkPath presents its programs in collaboration with BrightWorks, a Minnesota Service Cooperative. BrightWorks members save 34% on program registration fees. Scholarships are available.



Students practice writing about conflict between characters.



A YAC presenter teaches how to craft the perfect hook in a query letter session.

Bright
Works
Spark
Path

Learn More: Betsy Narr | 612-638-1550 | betsy.narr@brightworksmn.org

www.sparkpath.org/yac