

# Young Authors Conference

## A Field Trip for Grades 4-8

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](http://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.*

March 19, 2026

May 26-28, 2026

8:30 am - 1:35 pm

Bethel University



Students practice writing about conflict between characters.



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

Bright  
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Path

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[www.sparkpath.org/yac](http://www.sparkpath.org/yac)