

Young Authors Conference

A Field Trip for Grades 4-8

March 12, 2027
May 26-27, 2027
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

2026 sessions included: Poetry, Character Building, Realistic Fiction, Dialogue, Comic Book Panel Writing, World Building, Short Stories, 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.

- "Writing...is emotion, art, and determination on a sheet of paper."—YAC 7th grader
- "The presenters break complex skills into such simple and attainable steps and activities so everyone can easily walk away with some new skill."—YAC middle school teacher

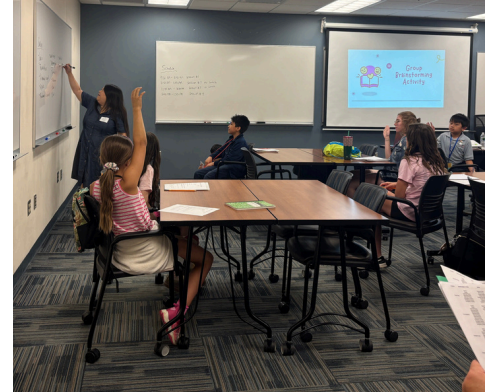
BrightWorks Member: Early Bird \$43/student (Regular Rate \$45)

Non-Member: Early Bird \$57/student (Regular Rate \$59)

March Early Bird deadline is December 18.

May Early Bird deadline is March 5.

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.

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www.sparkpath.org/yac