

NextGen Youth Advocates (NGYA) Program and AJ's Community Garden 1/1/26 – 3/31/26

NextGen Youth Advocates Summary

The NGYA program has been actively engaging local youth over the past three months, offering a nurturing environment where participants receive mentorship and develop important life skills. This consists of twice-weekly youth workshops covering advocacy training, civic engagement, substance prevention, organic gardening, and healthy lifestyles. Additionally, the program hosts a monthly "Free Our Sports Sunday" event. Youth are empowered to become leaders at school and in their social circles, with a total of 29 NGYA program days taking place between January 1 and March 31, 2026. The program also welcomed four new student registrations during this period.

NGYA has an exciting lineup of activities and initiatives planned through the end of April. This includes a special "Bloom into Spring" event series taking place during the upcoming spring break period. Our spring events are youth-led, with our young advocates collaborating to choose the theme and develop the activities. During spring break, they will be hosting a community engagement event, a youth poetry celebration, and an art showcase. Free Our Sports sessions will also be offered.

Recent Activities - January 1 - March 31, 2026

- 29 Youth Advocacy Workshops
- 26 Healthy Lifestyles / Garden Steward Workshops
- 3 AJ Community Garden Day Events
- 3 Canal Beautification Day Events
- 3 Free Sports Sunday Events including "Super Bowl Youth Watch Party"

2026 NGYA EVENTS

2/8/26 **FOS Super Bowl Watch Party** supplied a safe third space for local youth to create their own powerful messages challenging the marketing tactics of big alcohol companies and raising awareness about the harmful effects of underage drinking during the influential commercial sponsorships and endorsements aired throughout the Super Bowl.

Upcoming Initiatives - April 2026

- 1 Community Engagement Spring Event
- 2 Spring Break "Bloom into Spring" Events
- 12 Youth Advocacy Workshops
- 12 Healthy Lifestyles / Garden Steward Workshops
- 2 AJ Community Garden Day Events
- 1 Canal Beautification Event
- 1 Free Sports Event

Upcoming NGYA Event Calendar

- 4/4/26 NGYA Community Engagement Spring Event "Growing Together" for Youth Advocacy, Organic Gardening and Healthy Living
- 4/6/26 NGYA's Garden Poetry Celebration
- 4/9/26 NGYA's Spring Blossoms Art Showcase
- 4/12/26 Free Our Sports Sunday
- 4/13/26 Canal Beautification Day
- 4/20/26 AJ Community Garden Day

Key Outcomes and Milestones

- 20 youth are currently enrolled and attend 75% of our twice weekly programs per month
- 100% of youth reported feeling empowered to become leaders at school and in social circles
- 4 youth ambassadors will deliver public advocacy speeches during our upcoming community event on 4/4/26
- Average of 15 garden stewards currently participate in harvesting and maintaining our 12 on-site raised garden beds

Demographic Overview

The program serves a total of 20 consistent students, who are 35% female and 65% male, all of Hispanic ethnicity, ranging in age from 11 to 16 years old, and residing primarily in the Canal neighborhood (85%), with 15% living in the greater San Rafael area (Terra Linda). All participants are non-ESL students.

Grade Level Breakdown

5th Grade: 2 students

6th Grade: 6 students

7th Grade: 0

8th Grade: 6 students

9th Grade: 5 students

10th Grade: 1 student