

Youth Climate Advocacy Panel

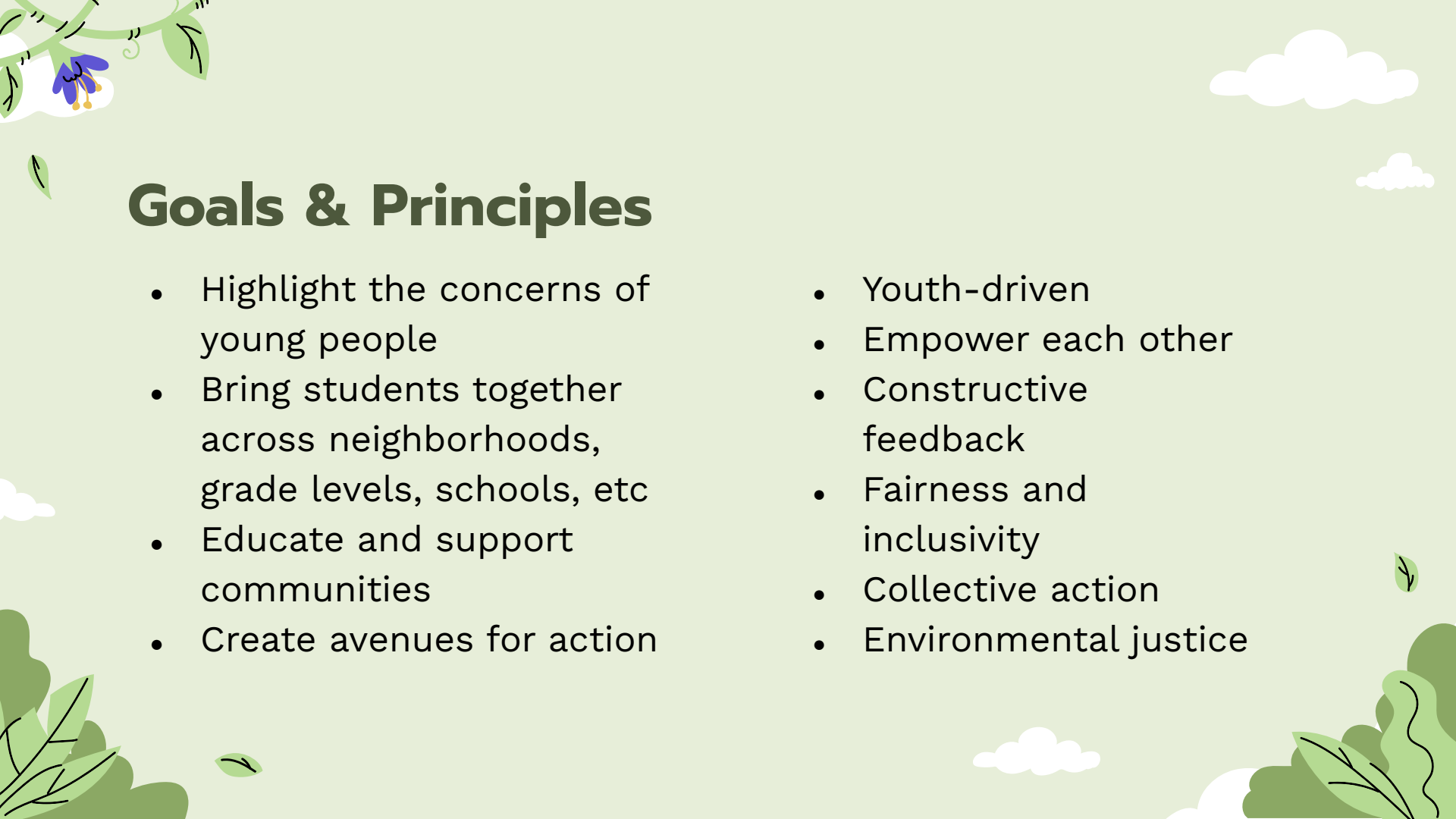
Phipps Youth Climate Advocacy Committee
(YCAC)



What is YCAC?

- Youth-led climate action on issues youth care about with support and resources from Phipps!
- Opportunities to collaborate with other youth and experts in the field
- Leadership and speaking opportunities
- Meets 2-3x/month October-April
- For ages 16 - 23
- Paid a small stipend to attend





Goals & Principles

- Highlight the concerns of young people
 - Bring students together across neighborhoods, grade levels, schools, etc
 - Educate and support communities
 - Create avenues for action
- Youth-driven
 - Empower each other
 - Constructive feedback
 - Fairness and inclusivity
 - Collective action
 - Environmental justice



Weekly Meetings

- Having open conversations about environmental issues and climate justice
- Developing projects in working groups
- Hearing from guest speakers
- Collaborating in environmental activities

Some of Last Year's Working Groups!



Aquatic Planting

Sustainable
Art & Fashion



Environmental Education





Annual Showcase

- Up to 300 guests
- YCAC working groups present their projects to their families, friends, and Pittsburgh community members!
- Tabling by local and partnering organizations
- Annual Sustainable Art & Fashion Show





- Presenting at the Annual Pittsburgh Youth for Climate Action Summit
- Representation at the Local Conference of Youth in Philadelphia, Phoenix, Miami, and virtually
- Collaborating with CMU
- Tree planting with Tree Pittsburgh
- Co-Leading the Youth Climate Connections Retreat in the Adirondacks



Travel/Collaboration

Anwita

- I'm a senior at North Hills Senior High School
- Favorite Environmental Topics
 - Climate Education
 - Sustainable Art
 - Sustainable Business Practices
- What got you interested in climate advocacy?
 - Witnessing climate and environmental change firsthand as I grew up
- Past Project
 - Sustainability Consultancy Project
 - Environmental lessons
 - Agricultural policy



Cortlan

- I'm a Freshman at The University of Pittsburgh
Majoring in Environmental Studies, Pre-Law
- Favorite Environmental Topics:
 - Environmental justice and health
 - Sustainability/ethics in the fashion industry
- What got you interested in climate advocacy?
 - Visiting museums and parks! → love for our world
- Past Projects:
 - Conservation-centered volunteer work
 - Youth Sustainable Art and Fashion Showcase (2024-2025)



Emma

- Hi I'm Emma, a senior at Sewickley Academy!
- Favorite environmental topics:
 - Environmental engineering
 - Sustainable fashion
 - Water pollution
- What sparked my interest:
 - My grandfather is a farmer!
 - Family members have been impacted by environmental issues
 - I love plants!
- Past projects:
 - School greenhouse
 - Radon advocacy
 - Heavy metal pollution research



Marley

- I'm a Junior studying Sustainability & Creative Writing with a focus in Environmental Writing & Journalism at Chatham University!
- I'm very interested in the intersection of writing and arts with climate activism!
- I have been a part of YCAC since its founding in 2021!
- Past YCAC Projects
 - Educating Middle Schoolers on Pollution
 - Environmental Art & Literary Magazine
 - Team Lead for Sustainable Art & Fashion Show
 - Now I'm the College Leader!



Thanks



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