

# Youth Empowerment through the Youth Preparedness Council (YPC)

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# Youth Preparedness

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*The Region 10 Youth Preparedness Council poses for a photo with Regional Administrator Nunn and the Individual and Community Preparedness Team (Lynnwood, WA).*

FEMA's YPC brings together a group of youth leaders from across the country who are passionate about emergency preparedness and making a difference in their communities.

The YPC provides young people with an opportunity to learn about emergency management, develop professional skills, and share their perspectives with FEMA staff.

In FEMA Region 10, we support both the National Council and a Region 10 YPC.



# Youth Preparedness Council (YPC)

- Formed in 2012 to help further preparedness in America
- Comprised of youth in grades 9-12 who are passionate about disaster preparedness and community service
- National YPC
  - 15 members from across the country
  - serve a 1-year term
  - attend an in-person Summit
  - work together to complete emergency preparedness projects
- Regional YPCs
  - currently 6 regional YPCs
  - several state and local YPCs

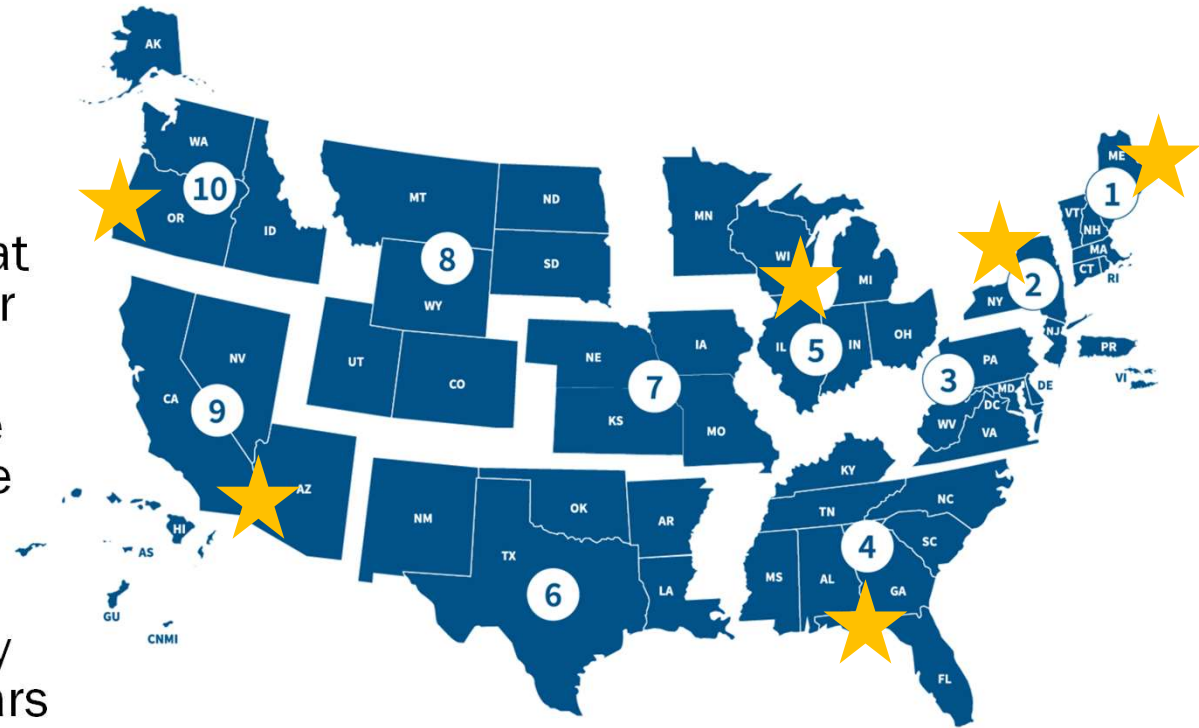


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# YPC Background

- The YPC is a competitive, application-based program
- There is one National YPC that admits 15 students each year
- Many students who apply are not selected; this is why there are regional YPCs!
- Member service years vary by program, but typically 1-2 years



★\*Designates FEMA Regions that have active Regional YPCs



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# What do YPC Members Do?

- Participate in an in-person Summit (Washington DC or Region 10)
- Complete at least one preparedness service project aimed at improving their community's disaster resilience
- Meet emergency management officials and other teens interested in disasters/preparedness
- Develop professional skills, including formal public speaking, email writing, team cohesion, and networking
- Give their perspectives to FEMA staff



*National Youth Preparedness Council members in discussion during the Youth Preparedness Council Summit in Washington, DC.*



*The Region 10 Youth Preparedness Council listens during a session with Eliza Davis, Tulalip Tribes Director and Ashley Zacherle, FEMA Region 10 Tribal Advisor*



# Notable Accomplishments

- Created earthquake & extreme heat flyers, translated (through WA EMD) into five languages, and currently distributing to non-profits and Community Based Organizations
- Intern at Oregon Department of Emergency Management for Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP) Project
- Delivered CPR, Stop the Bleed, CERT training to grade school students
- Created social media content that reaches thousands



**EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS**

**During an Earthquake**

- Drop**
  - Drop down to the ground where you are
- Cover**
  - Cover head and neck
  - Take Cover under a sturdy desk or table, or near an interior wall.
- Hold On:**
  - Until the shaking stops

**How to Prepare:**

- Practice Drop Cover, and Hold On with family and friends
- Make an emergency kit and communications plan
- Protect your home by securing heavy items

**After an earthquake:**

- Check yourself and others around you for injuries.
- If near the coast, head to higher ground as soon as it is safe
  - A Tsunami may be coming
- Be prepared for aftershocks

Learn more at: ready.gov

Icons: DROP! COVER! HOLD ON! LOCK! COVER! HOLD ON!

**PREPARACIÓN ANTE TERREMOTOS**

**Durante un terremoto**

- Agáchese**
  - Agáchese en el suelo donde esté.
- Cúbrase**
  - Cúbrase la cabeza y el cuello.
  - Colóquese debajo de un escritorio o mesa resistente, o cerca de un muro interior.
- Permanezca ahí:**
  - Hasta que deje de temblar.

**Cómo prepararse**

- Practique "Agáchese, cúbrase y permanezca ahí" con la familia y los amigos.
- Prepare un kit de emergencia y un plan de comunicaciones.
- Proteja su hogar asegurando los objetos pesados.

Más información en: ready.gov

Icons: ¡AGÁCHESE! ¡CÚBRASE! ¡PERMANEZCA! ¡ASEGURE! ¡CÚBRASE! ¡PERMANEZCA!

**Video Thumbnail:** D. MOSS, 22.3K views

# Ambassadors & Voices of Preparedness

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- YPC Members have been interviewed by local news channels, asked to present at local and state-level conferences, and invited to speak with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Gentleman and FEMA's Administrator





# How Can We Amplify Youth Voices & Efforts?

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- The YPC interacts with a minimal number of teens each year – how can we amplify this?
- Introducing school curriculum focusing on preparedness
  - Oregon Department of Education (DOE) HB 2902. Oregon DOE is required to create emergency preparedness guidance for schools to be implemented at the start of the 2024-2025 school year. Schools are *encouraged* but not required to follow guidance
- Implementing school Red Cross/Preparedness/CERT clubs that can be personalized per school
- Would love more creative ideas 😊



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# Success Stories



**Suniti Srinivasan**



**Viswa Karthic**



# Project Themes: Hands-on Preparedness Training & Empowering Young Children

Suniti Srinivasan

- Taught elementary-aged students
- Presented at youth fairs
- Stop the Bleed, CPR, CERT trained
- Children's book about preparedness



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# National Youth Preparedness Council

- Hoping to partner with King County Emergency Management on local Youth Council or similar initiatives
- Podcast focused on impacts of climate change
- Interested in research about chronic disease amplification due to disasters and how preparedness can mitigate these effects (specifically cancer) – looking for contacts for this 😊
- Current CERT instructor teaching classes at the Redmond Fire station



Emergency Preparedness Leadership Conference



E-Prep Fair at Rosa Parks Elementary



Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Meeting. Suniti pictured with King County EM Director and FEMA Administrator Criswell



# STOP THE BLEED JOURNEY

Viswa Karthic



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



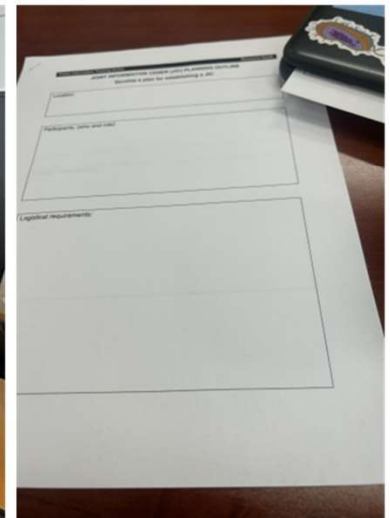
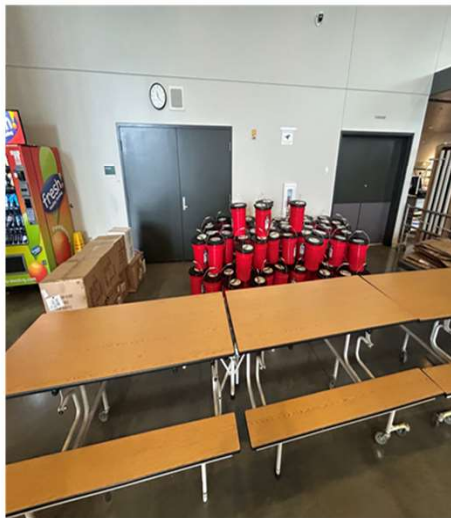
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# SCHOOL SAFETY & PREPAREDNESS

*Viswa Karthic*



 Lake Washington  
School District



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# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Viswa Karthic



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# Youth Engagement Discussion



**Suniti Srinivasan**



**Viswa Karthic**







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FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

# Virtual Preparedness Workshop

REGION 10 & NATIONAL YOUTH PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL

