JUMP INTO JULY WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Latest from Youth Leaders

Attention all prospective International Humanitarian Law Youth Action Campaign (IHL YAC) advocates! We are pleased to share the annual theme for the 2021-2022 academic year, Preservation of Cultural Property, which strives to answer why cultural property is at risk during wartime, how IHL protects cultural property during armed conflicts, and what we can do to advocate for compliance with the rules of war. Participants in the program will also learn about the history and development of IHL, the Geneva Conventions, best practices for building a successful awareness campaign and more.

For more information, visit RedCross.org/YAC or the IHL YAC page on the Exchange. To get more involved, contact your local IHL YAC coordinator or email IHLyouth@redcross.org.

Youth Volunteer Spotlight: Patrick Bednarz

Two years ago, Patrick Bednarz knew nothing about the IHL YAC program. However, upon joining a local campaign, he quickly fell in love with its mission to empower youth to learn about the rules of armed conflict. His experiences inspired him to continue engaging with the IHL YAC this past cycle in which he and his team taught others about Education in War both virtually and in-person.

On Instagram and TikTok, Patrick and his peers shared posts, stories and polls about the topic that had over 10,000 views and 500 engagements. When their high school reopened, they also gave a presentation about IHL to all in-person students, which was followed by a bingo game reviewing what they just learned.

Patrick encourages everyone interested in the IHL YAC to “just do it! The program is super flexible, so it can accommodate all ideas and all schedules.”

Thanks for being an amazing IHL Advocate, Patrick! We can’t wait to see what new ideas you have for next year.

The 2021 Youth Action Campaign Virtual Summit

Every year, the American Red Cross’ International Humanitarian Law Youth Action Campaign (IHL YAC) chooses a new theme for youth and young adult Red Crossers to focus on as they conduct their activities. For the 2020-2021 cycle, the IHL YAC topic was Education in War – the destruction of educational systems during armed conflicts and the protections IHL provides. Over 100 teams participated in the program, and 25 advocates were selected to attend the 2021 YAC Virtual Summit as division representatives to honor their achievements and be the first youth to be trained in next year’s theme, Preservation of Cultural Property.

The Summit Series has many events open to all youth. Register for sessions that interest you below:

- July 13 at 12:00 p.m. ET: Leading with Your Strengths
- July 14 at 12:00 p.m. ET: Character Does Matter
- July 20 at 2:00 p.m. ET: On the Front Lines of Preserving Cultural Property with Colonel (Retired) Richard Jackson
- July 23 at 11:00 a.m. ET: IHL on the Small Screen – Blood & Treasure with producer Mark Vlasic
- July 24 at 11:00 a.m. ET: Summit 2021 Presentations
- July 26 at 1:00 p.m. ET: IHL YAC National Symposium

Resource Spotlights
Expand Your Knowledge

Did you know that a person can die from severe blood loss in less than 5 minutes? Learn how to face this life-threatening emergency by enrolling in First Aid for Severe Trauma (FAST), the first national STOP THE BLEED course specifically designed for high school students, coming August 19, 2021. The course and digital materials will be offered at no charge to high school students under the age of 19. Tell us what you think about bleeding control courses in schools by taking our 3-minute survey. Learn more about FAST by clicking here.

What is YouthWire?

Created by your National Youth Council, YouthWire is a monthly e-newsletter containing important Red Cross youth volunteer opportunities, stories, and resources for youth, young adults and youth champions! We are always looking to highlight great stories and want to hear what awesome things are happening in your region!

Let us know what’s new for you!

Questions about youth volunteering with the American Red Cross?
Email YouthInvolvement@redcross.org

Get Social and Share!

Follow our Facebook and new Instagram page for updates, events and reminders!

Facebook: @AmericanRedCrossYouthNetwork
Instagram: @americanredcrossyouth

Share this newsletter with your peers and friends or have them email YouthInvolvement@redcross.org to subscribe to our newsletter.

Log Your Hours on Volunteer Connection!

The time you spend volunteering is critical to the American Red Cross. It is important that volunteer hours are submitted through Volunteer Connection so that they can be tracked as part of the overall mission.

Help us tell the story of the incredible impact youth & young adults have by logging your hours today! Use this helpful tip sheet to walk through how to submit your volunteer hours on Volunteer Connection! We also have this great new video to aid you in the process of logging your hours on the desktop version and mobile app version of Volunteer Connection!