

National Deaf Youth Day

- March 6th -

What is National Deaf Youth Day?

National Deaf Youth Day was developed to recognize and bring together deaf and hard of hearing youth from schools for the deaf, mainstream programs, and universities. March 6th was chosen to represent National Deaf Youth Day for its proximity to Deaf History Month, which is held each year from March 13th through April 15th. March 13th is the day that the Deaf President Now movement (1988) began and led to Gallaudet University having its first-ever Deaf president in its history. April 8th was the date that Abraham Lincoln signed the charter establishing Gallaudet as a college for the deaf (1864). April 15th, 1817 was the date that the United States saw the beginning of its first school for the deaf, American School for the Deaf (ASD).

National Deaf Youth Day serves two purposes: 1) to celebrate the unique identity of deaf and hard of hearing people and their accomplishments; and, 2) to promote the idea that deaf and hard of hearing youth can do anything.

The NAD thanks and recognizes Pennsylvania Society for Advancement of the Deaf (PSAD) for being the state model and originator of the National Deaf Youth Day Priority.

Why is National Deaf Youth Day important?

It is estimated that there are over 3 million young deaf and hard of hearing people in America. Far too many are not recognized as important members of society nor are they given equal opportunities for maximum personal and social development as well as meaningful career preparation. National Deaf Youth Day highlights the need to recognize the potential of deaf and hard of hearing youth and to support their future goals and endeavors.

What should we do on National Deaf Youth Day?

This special day is an opportunity for everyone to show deaf and hard of hearing youth the accomplishments of deaf and hard of hearing people in this country. It is also a great opportunity for you to support deaf and hard of hearing young people by giving them opportunities to meet their peers and introduce them to deaf and hard of hearing mentors and role models. National Deaf Youth Day is an opportunity for state associations and schools, including Jr. NAD chapters, to host an

event, a program or an activity. While National Deaf Youth Day is officially on March 6th, activities or programs can be hosted on other dates or in conjunction with other events. You can contact your state association officers to ask how you can help them celebrate National Deaf Youth Day in your state.

National Deaf Youth Day Ideas

Social Media

Encourage individuals to post:

- A favorite deaf or hard of hearing role model using the hashtag: #deafrolemodel and explain why.
- A picture using the hashtag: #isupportdeafyouth.
- A comment and/or picture that reflects deaf and hard of hearing youth using the hashtag: #nationaldeafyouthday.

Event Ideas

- Host a fundraiser event to sponsor a student or two to allow them to attend the NAD Conference.
- Host an event where a youth delegate can be chosen to represent the state association for the NAD Council of Representatives (COR) during the NAD Conference.
- Choose one or two students to participate in the Jr. NAD Pages Program at the NAD Conference.
- Set up a summer or fall picnic for all deaf and hard of hearing youth at a park.
- State associations can send its officers to visit a school or program for the deaf, a mainstreamed program, or a college or university to give a presentation, or invite a presenter to give a presentation.
- Invite deaf and hard of hearing youth to meetings of the state association.
- Sponsor a student in attending the NAD Youth Leadership Camp (YLC).
- Identify and invite deaf and hard of hearing youth to compete in NAD Youth Ambassador Program (YAP), including providing moral and financial support.
- Identify schools and programs for the deaf and mainstreamed programs that do not have a Jr. NAD chapter, and help them establish the Jr. NAD chapter.
- Host a party for deaf and hard of hearing youth in your area and share with them about NAD Youth Programs as well as your state association events.
- Do a spotlight in your newsletter on outstanding deaf and hard of hearing youth

- in your area, and promote it on your website and other social media platforms.
- Sponsor or host a contest at a school or program for the deaf and mainstreamed programs on ASL art, poetry and/or storytelling.
- Invite students from programs and schools for the deaf and mainstream schools to a social event or gathering so that they get to know one another.
- Conduct a Back-to-School Drive to collect school materials for all deaf and hard of hearing students.
- Host a youth retreat weekend with inspiring deaf and hard of hearing presenters.
- Host a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) event at your school and inviting deaf and hard of hearing scientists, engineers and experts on technology.
- Host a career awareness day where you can have students become aware of the many different careers in which various deaf and hard of hearing people have succeeded.

Note: This list is not comprehensive and is not intended to limit what you do. This list is intended to inspire many different activities that you and your organization can engage in for National Deaf Youth Day depending on the resources that you have available.

For more information, you can contact Chanel Gleicher, NAD Director of Youth Programs, at chanel.gleicher@nad.org.

