

Empowering Youth Advocacy: Navigating the Civic Landscape

October 19, 2023



**COLLABORATIVE
MENTORING** 
WEBINAR SERIES

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. Audience Polls

3. Youth Civic Engagement Overview

4. Panelist Interview

5. Audience Q&A

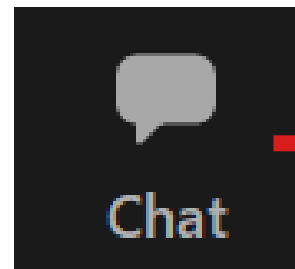
6. Youth Led Advocacy Guide & Resources

7. Closing

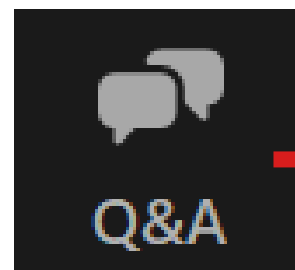
Tips for Engagement

Webinar Buddies!

1. Post on the Excel Sheet your name & email.
2. Find someone who doesn't have a name next to theirs. Put yours next to it!
3. Follow up with one another in a couple weeks to see how they've been using this knowledge!



- Introduce yourself!
- Talk with one another
- Share resources
- Respond to presenters



- Ask the presenters questions
- Upvote questions you'd like to see answered



What is your role in the mentoring field?

FACILITATOR – Mary Gladstone-Highland



Mary Gladstone-Highland is a Technical Assistance Provider for the Michigan MENTOR/National Mentoring Resource Center affiliate. Mary also owns Spark Group Consulting, where she helps nonprofits develop the strategies and funding necessary to achieve their missions.

PANELIST – Rep. Jasper Martus



State Rep. Jasper R. Martus is serving his first term representing the 69th House District, which comprises Flushing –his hometown--, Flushing Township, Clayton Township, Clio, Flint Township, Mount Morris, Mount Morris Township, Swartz Creek, Montrose and parts of Montrose Township and Vienna Township.

Rep. Martus believes in the importance of representing the people he serves. His family and faith have instilled in him a commitment to helping others. This outlook is shaped by the hardworking and dedicated people of his community. His priorities center around creating jobs to promote a flourishing economy, improving infrastructure in the community to ensure a reliable commute for work and leisure, and fighting for Genesee County children through an education system that prepares young people to get ahead in the modern economy.

PANELIST – Ellen Wehrman



Ellen Wehrman is an Applied Research Consultant at Apprecots. Prior to that she was the Co-Chief for Programs for a national nonpartisan youth voting nonprofit and the Student Affairs Assessment Coordinator and Assistant Director in the Leadership Institute at Central Michigan University.

PANELIST – Scott Claxton



Scott Claxton is the Program Director of 42 Strong, a peer-mentoring program launched in response to the Oxford High School shootings. He is an entrepreneur with experience founding and growing businesses. Scott has a passion for helping others set and achieve their goals. Additionally, he has coached youth sports for 18 years and is a PSIA certified ski instructor.

Civic engagement

Youth civic engagement is defined as working to make a difference in the civic life of one's community. It also involves developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to make that difference. These activities enrich the lives of youths and are socially beneficial to the community.

- *Youth.gov*

Four constructs of civic engagement

FOUR CONSTRUCTS OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Civic Engagement

Working to make a difference in the civic life of one's community.

Civic Action

Civic Commitment or Duty

Civic Skills

Social Cohesion

- **Civic Action**, or participation in activities such as volunteering or service-learning to help better the community (Bobek, Zaff, Li, & Lerner, 2009)
- **Civic Commitment or Duty**, or the willingness to make positive contributions to society
- **Civic Skills**, or the ability to be involved in civil society, politics, and democracy
- **Social Cohesion**, or a sense of reciprocity, trust, and bonding to others

- Youth.gov

Examples of civic engagement

- Spreading awareness about an issue
- Participating in a local youth council
- Advocating on social media
- Starting a youth-led organization
- Voting
- Joining nonprofit boards
- Participating in arts & culture

Your voice matters!

Youth have experience, opinions, and expertise in issues that effect their communities. It is important to share your perspective in order to support the growth of your community.

Civic engagement also provides leadership development skills and increases social capital.



**In what ways have you
engaged in the civic
process?**

What are some ways that mentors can inspire young people to be involved in the civic process?

**42 Strong's experience advocating
for peer mentorship in Michigan
Schools.**

What impact does it have when youth engage with legislators?

Can you share a success story of involving youth in local and state politics?

How did 42 Strong decide to get involved in advocacy?

In what ways can youth and local government partner to create positive impacts?

How can mentor agencies better support and encourage youth to get involved in the civic process?

What impacts do you hope to see?

Can you give me an example of a time that youth engagement made a positive impact?

Three Next Steps

- I. Visit mentoring.org/advocacy
- II. Choose one action
- III. Encourage a friend



Questions?



MENTOR

The background is a complex, abstract composition of overlapping teal and green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, creating a low-poly or crystalline effect. The colors range from light, almost white-green to deep, dark teal. The overall texture is busy and layered, with some areas appearing more translucent than others. Centered horizontally and vertically is the text "What inspired you today?" in a clean, white, sans-serif font. The text is bold and stands out clearly against the busy, multi-colored background.

What inspired you today?

MENTOR'S Youth-Led Advocacy Guide



MENTOR's *Youth-Led Advocacy Guide*, is designed to be a practical tool for youth mentoring programs, youth-serving organizations, and current and aspiring youth advocates looking to establish and expand effective youth-led advocacy activities and initiatives.

www.mentoring.org/resource/youth-led-advocacy-guide/

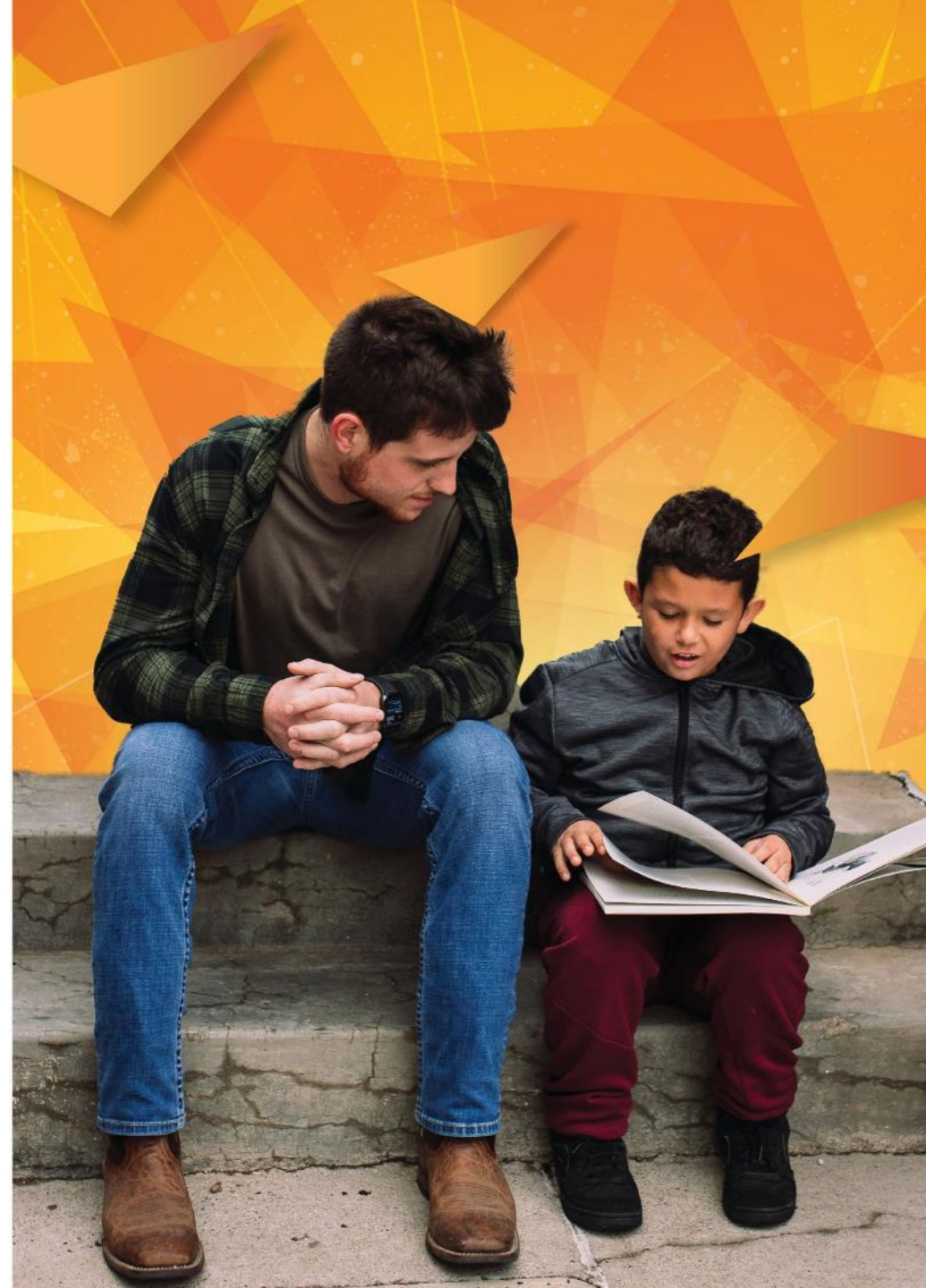
The guide's art is designed by Maite Nazario



MENTOR

Resources

- MENTOR's Advocate Academy
<https://www.mentoring.org/advocacy/advocate-academy/>
- Action Center <https://www.mentoring.org/advocacy/>
- Local nonprofit associations



Additional Resources

Contact Us

Email us with any feedback or questions at collaborativewebinarseries@mentoring.org!

Affiliates

MENTOR Affiliates can support with training, resources, public awareness and advocacy. [Find your local affiliate here.](#)

Mentoring Connector

Recruit mentors by submitting your program to the [Mentoring Connector](#).

National Mentoring Resource Center

Check out the [OJJDP National Mentoring Resource Center](#) to access evidence-based mentoring resources and to apply for no-cost training and technical assistance

Remember!

- Please take **3-4 minutes to complete the anonymous survey** to let us know how we did!
- In a few days, you will receive an email with information on how to download the **slides, recording, and resources** on the CMWS webpage on MENTOR's website.
- **Connect with your webinar buddy!** Check in with them in a couple weeks to see how they've used the information from today's webinar.

Join Us Next Month!

TBA

November 30th

1PM – 2:30PM EST