

# Youth Institute Registration for CTEBVI 2022

With the CTEBVI convention going virtual, the Youth Institute will be doing the same, opening the door for many of the youth who might not have been able to attend an in-person conference to join us and gain the experiences of learning about the many resources, connections and new equipment that come together at the CTEBVI annual conference. The Youth Institute is your ticket as a blind and low vision student to learning about all of this and everything else the conference has to offer while having fun with your blind and low vision peers.

Our modified virtual schedule will allow you to learn, connect, and enhance your CTEBVI conference experience without spending your entire Saturday on zoom. Below you will find information about the agenda and the program options you will be choosing from when you register for the event in this Google Form.

Please be sure to sign-up by Thursday, April 7th.

If you have any questions about this year's Youth Institute, please email Chris Fendrick at cfendrick@ctebvi.org.

## Session 1 (10:00-11:00 Pacific Daylight Time)

### Adventures that builds skills for success (Geared toward younger youth)

San Francisco LightHouse Youth Service Coordinator Jamey Gump will lead participants through a conversation with other blind and low vision mentors about how one can develop advocacy skills, self-confidence, and other lifelong skills by participating in recreation programming and having fun while learning. Whether that is learning how to white-water raft with other blind and low vision peers, exploring a new hobby with their family members or

sighted peers, or trying new activities can help open the door to so many opportunities both inside and outside of school.

## Host: Jamey Gump Coordinator for Youth Service, San Francisco Lighthouse

James Gump, or as many of his students and friends know him Jamey, works tirelessly to create and implement programming for our blind and low vision youth, their families, and educators. Jamey is blind due to achromatopsia. He has served as the LightHouse's Youth Services Coordinator for eight years and is an excellent role model to the blind and low vision youth around the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. Jamey has organized cooking, music, and art classes, rock climbing, horseback riding and sports outings, overnight kayaking and rafting excursions, and so much more.

Image of Jamey Gump. He has light skin, a bushy red beard and mustache and is wearing a cap and sunglasses



#### Panelists will include

**Nikhil Dadlani** is currently 20 years old. He was born in Tokyo, Japan and moved to the United States in 2004. Since 2012, He has been more than fortunate to live here in the Bay Area, taking advantage of the many services offered for Blind students. He is currently attending community college, majoring in political science. Nikki also works as a political science tutor at the Community college. His intention is to transfer to a UC campus in order to pursue a degree in political sciences, and then enroll in law school. In the years he has been in the bay area he has been taking part in many of the LightHouse's youth program such as the overnight camping trips and will share how these outings helped him grow.

**Shane Dittmar** (they/them) is a blind musician, music educator, and disability advocate. In addition to writing and performing their own songs, they have created and directed musical theatre productions with sighted and blind students and adults, and, as a certified TVI, served for three and a half years as the music teacher at the Washington State School for the Blind. They have recently turned their passion for technology, previously a hobby, into a career as an accessibility engineer with CVS Health.

**Maia Scott** is an arts educator and interdisciplinary artist teaching accessible arts for City College of San Francisco and supporting adult programming at the Lighthouse. Maia also works as an accessibility tester and supports local museums and galleries with their resources and programming for blind and low vision visitors. She is on the Access Advisors Board for the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and the Alumni Board for Guide Dogs for the Blind. Maia's art was recently exhibited in "The Art of Disability Culture" at the Palo Alto Art Center and her large-scale piece, "Squared" has remained in the SFPL Talking Book library for the last eight years. Maia also proposed and helped produce "Finger Walks", a tactile labyrinth collection and guidebook produced by the American Printing House for the Blind. She also leads labyrinth meditation and creativity playshops for people of all ages and abilities

## Session 2 (11:30-12:30 Pacific Daylight Time)

Don't miss out!!! Two summer camp programs you don't want to miss!

Come and hear from Jane Flower and Tony Fletcher as they share information about the two unique summer camp experiences that they offer!

Guide Dogs for the Blind's Summer Camp experience!

Guide Dogs for the Blind recognizes that the human-animal bond is unique; we want to give young adults with visual impairments the opportunity to experience its life-changing potential.

At Camp GDB, campers will explore the companionship, independence, and responsibility of having a guide dog. They will receive hands-on guide dog instruction with an emphasis on understanding the specific orientation and mobility skills required to be a successful guide dog handler, as well as the fitness and endurance necessary for guide dog travel. Oh, and we have a whole lot of camp fun too, with campfires, swimming, a hike or two, and a few other surprises.

LightHouse's Enchanted Hills Camp for the Blind

Founded in 1950, Enchanted Hills Camp (EHC) was the first American Camp Association accredited camp for the blind. Since then, over 30,000 blind / low vision campers of all ages have experienced the community-building, learning and joy of EHC. Established on 311 acres of lush redwood and mixed forest, EHC provides immersive, year-round programs for children, teens and adults who are blind, low vision, deaf-blind or have multiple disabilities where they can learn and practice essential skills specific to blindness, such as getting around with a white cane and building personal independence in a safe and nurturing environment. At EHC, every activity is accessible to blind campers: campfire-building, horseback riding, woodworking, kayaking, archery, swimming, hiking and more. EHC gives campers the space to grow and develop independence that they might not have anywhere else. Campers are mentored,

encouraged and supported by a team that knows what they're experiencing as 60% of EHC staff and volunteers are blind or have low vision, a rarity among camps for the blind.

## Leader: Jane Flower MSG | Youth Outreach Specialist Director, Guide Dogs for the Blind Summer Camp

Jane Flower is a current employee of Guide Dogs for the Blind over eight years. She is director of Guide Dogs for the Blind Summer Camp programs.

Image of Jane Flower.She is kneeling beside her guide dog Pilaf in a redwood grove. She's wearing a bright red sweater and has the top of her long brown curly hair pulled back.



## Leader: Tony Fletcher, Director of Enchanted Hills Camp

Tony Fletcher is a 30+ year employee of the LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired and 23 year director of Enchanted Hills Camp.

Image of Tony Fletcher. He has dark hair and glasses and has an engaging smile. He is wearing a dark gray zippered shirt. He is pictured against a plain background.



# Session 3: (2:00-3:00 Pacific Daylight Time)

## The what, when, and where of gaining independent living skills

We always hear about living skills and their importance, but where do we learn them? LightHouse Youth Services Coordinator Daisy Soto will guide a discussion with a panel of blind and low-vision young adults, who will share their varied experiences gaining lifelong living skills after high school. Participants will hear firsthand about experiences from various living skills programs, as well as personal anecdotes from students about everything from cooking independently to gaining financial management knowledge. Panelists will discuss how learning these skills has increased their confidence, independence, and improved their experiences as they begin college or enter the workforce, and participants will have time to join the conversation, share their thoughts, and ask panelists their questions.

## Leader: Daisy Soto

### Youth Services Coordinator, San Francisco Lighthouse

Daisy is a multi-lingual project coordinator with a passion for diversity and intersectionality. She recently graduated from San Francisco State University with a B.A in Spanish and Race and Resistance Studies. As a Youth Services Coordinator at the LightHouse for the Blind in San Francisco, Daisy works towards promoting independence and confidence in all students through mentorship, advocacy, and hands-on activities. She aspires to be involved in positions that make spaces and information accessible to all. She can be reached at: www.linkedin.com/in/soto-daisy

Image of Daisy Soto. She has long wavy brown hair and is wearing a red dress with a black sweater. Daisy is smiling and posing with her right hand on her hip. Her black lab guide dog is on her left, wearing a light patterned kerchief.



#### Panelists

**Tiffany Taylor**, she/her is a blind queer woman who holds a BA in Theatre and works as a Dancer, Accessibility Consultant and Audio Description Advisor. She serves as secretary on the board of Directors for the intercontinental dance company Jess Curtis Gravity and is a graduate and former instructor of braille, technology, financial management and independent living skills at the Hatlen Center for the Blind.

Image of Tiffany, a white blind young woman wearing a floppy tan hat and puffy pink jacket, sits on a weathered bench cut from a single, massive log, on the top of a windswept cliff overlooking a rocky coast



Abby Moreno (bio and picture not available) Gene Kim (bio and picture not available) Xianna Rodriguez (bio and picture not available)

## Session 4 (3:30-4:30 Pacific Daylight Time)

## Advocacy and resiliency for self (older youth)

Engage with Sue Pelbath about the skills of advocacy and how they build confidence in independence, training, employment, and options for your future beyond high school.

## Leader: Sue Pelbath Director for Orientation f/t Blind in Oakland CA

Sue Pelbath is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor with a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling and a Specialization in Rehabilitation Technology. Sue worked in High School Special Education for many years before she was hired by the Department of Rehabilitation Blind Field Services Division in 2014. She began working as the Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor-Qualified Rehabilitation Professional (SVRC-QRP) at the Orientation Center for the Blind in 2015, where she is now the director. Image of Sue Pelbath. Sue has shoulder length strawberry blond hair. She is wearing a black jacket, tee shirt and jeans. Sue is carrying her backpack and walking briskly outside on a sunny day with her guide dog, a golden retriever.

