



YOUTH INSTITUTE 2025

SF Lighthouse for the Blind, in collaboration with **CTEBVI** (California Transcribers and Educators for the Blind and Visually Impaired), is sponsoring the **Youth Institute** to be held on Saturday, April 12, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM during the CTEBVI Annual Conference at the **San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel** in Burlingame at no cost.

We're excited to invite you to this year's Youth Institute, which promises to unlock valuable opportunities in a new and engaging way! This day-long event will provide students with the opportunity to explore key topics and meet mentors who are blind or have low vision themselves. Please find the agenda of the day's presentations below:

9:00 – 9:20: **Welcome.** Moderators: Daisy Soto, Career Preparation Specialist & James Gump, Enchanted Hills Camp Director Lighthouse for the Blind

9:20 – 9:50: **Keynote,** Gena Harper. Gena is a former member of the US National Para-cycling Team and earned a bronze medal at the National Handicapped Ski Championships. She is an adventurer who enjoys activities like windsurfing, whitewater rafting, skateboarding, and cliff diving. Her story as a blind woman reminds us all, that we should never say, "I can't." Gena is engaging, real, and

ready to share her incredible experiences with you! We are thrilled that she will kick the day off.

9:50 – 10:50: **Financial Empowerment. Presenter:** Gina Harper, CIMA, Wealth Advisor. Students will learn how to start building wealth at an early age and find out about programs like Cal Able, a specialized savings account that you can open to start saving and planning for your future.

11:00 – 12:15: **AI and Accessibility. Presenter:** Fernando Macias, Regional Manager, Access Technology LightHouse for the Blind. Students will discover how Artificial Intelligence (AI), the invisible thread in our daily lives, is a powerful tool for learning, accessing information, and staying ahead in the ever-evolving world of Access Technology. Understanding AI is also essential in understanding and learning how to use as you plan for future employment and career development.

12:15 – 12:55: **Lunch**

1:00 – 2:00: **Understanding Your Rights. Panel (TBA):** Gain insight into the laws and rights that support and protect and provide equity to blind and low vision individuals in the U.S.

2:00 – 2:50: **Exhibit Hall.** Students will travel in small groups exploring the CTEBVI Exhibit Hall.

2:50 – 3:00: **Wrap Up!**