

# OASL Ohio State Budget Proposal



## The Ohio Association of Student Leaders - Proposal Highlights

- \$150,000 line item in the next Ohio State Budget
- Funds to be used to provide equity in opportunity and representation
- Provide approximately 400 all year programming scholarships for Ohio students
- Reduced costs for all programs for every student in Ohio
- Funds to also be used to provide resources to schools and teachers for sustained success.
- Compared to many programs, OASL can work with every middle and high school in Ohio.
- Students can go through the program for 6 years and have a unique curriculum each year.

## OASL's Mission

The Ohio Association of Student Leaders is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping Ohio's middle and high school students identify and develop their leadership capacity to make positive change in their schools and communities. Our year-round leadership development programs focus on topics such as group dynamics, diversity and inclusion, self-esteem, authenticity, visioning and goal setting, organizational skills, collaboration, and community-building. Using experiential and active learning methods throughout our summer camps, weekend retreats, conferences, workshops, and peer-to-peer education opportunities, OASL programs boost student knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to lead with purpose. OASL students cultivate positive relationships and connections with diverse others, feel and show empathy, and make responsible decisions for themselves and their communities. Created by students, teachers, and administrators back in 1953, we continue to design and facilitate our high-impact educational experiences specifically for the developmental needs of youth leaders in partnership with educators and schools across the state.

## Why does OASL Need State Funding?

OASL believes that all students have leadership potential, and at the same time recognizes that access to developing that potential is limited for many. We want to make sure that any student interested in growing in their leadership practice and learning how to collaborate with others to make lasting change has the opportunity to do so. We believe that as an organization formed, grown, and led by Ohio's educators, with leadership development curricula designed specifically for youth leaders, we are well-equipped to meet the leadership development needs of Ohio's diverse student population. We are committed to expanding and diversifying access to our programs.

We believe that until there is equity in opportunity and representation, all students miss out. Though we strive for affordability, the costs associated with attending our events can create a limiting factor and accessibility issue for some schools and students. Further, there is a lack of funding provided to administrators, teachers, students, and student activity advisors for leadership development opportunities. OASL will work to connect with school administrators, counselors, and teachers in all Ohio schools to create and sustain awareness of our programs and demonstrate how they positively impact students, schools, and communities. All student leaders in Ohio deserve awareness of and access to the opportunities provided by OASL.

## What Financial Support Does OASL Seek?

The Ohio Association of Student Leaders is seeking \$150,000 to provide equitable opportunities for students and school districts across Central Ohio. The funding will be invested in two main ways; reducing student participant costs and investing in outreach and engagement initiatives.

100% of the funds will be used to cover operational costs of programs and provide scholarships, ultimately to reduce the registration costs and provide greater program access to students. For every program we run, costs include items such as facilities, program materials, curriculum design, administrative fees, staff training, meals, technology, and other equipment. For overnight programs, we are also incurring housing costs, conference and event fees, etc. If we have organizational funding to cover these operational costs, we rely less on registration fees and can therefore reduce costs to individual students. As needed, funds will also be used to provide direct student scholarships. This could include OASL contribution of scholarship money to help a school cover the cost to send their students. It could also include full sponsorship of students in need who do not have any additional support from their family, school, or community. Additionally funds will be used to invest further outreach and engagement initiatives.

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### **OASL Business Model**

OASL offers year-round leadership development programming that consists of week long summer workshops, weekend retreats, and single day events. OASL also provides resources, training, development opportunities, and leadership experiences for both students and educators.

The registration fees associated with our programming cover organizational costs that include programming, supplies, facilities, volunteer staff training, and insurance. The work of the organization is primarily conducted on a volunteer basis, with our four leadership team members receiving stipends for their administrative work on top of their volunteer commitment. The positions receiving stipends include our Executive Director, Director of Senior High Programs, Director of Middle Level Programs, and Director of Advancement. Outside of these four positions, our staff team includes high school students, college students, and adult educators who volunteer their time and talents in order to reduce overhead costs.

OASL's revenue is generated through annual school membership fees, participant registration fees, and individual donations. Additional funds obtained from events help keep the costs of future events at a minimum for students and their families. In recent years, we have been fortunate to receive a few moderate corporate grants and have hosted annual benefit events. Please refer to our submitted budget for more specific and detailed revenue and expenditures.

The funding we receive from State Funds and other sources would allow us to further reduce program registration costs to create more equitable opportunities for students and their families while at the same time ensure financial stability of our organization.

### **What makes OASL Unique?**

As a youth leadership development organization, OASL stands out with our expertise, design, and impact. OASL offers a long-term, developmentally sequenced leadership development curriculum over the course of a student's entire middle school and high school experience, in some cases expanding into their post-high school/college years. Each of our programs (summer camps, retreats, workshops, conferences, etc.) features multiple levels of programming with rotating topics and activities that grow with students as they grow in their knowledge and skills. Upon completion of certain programs, students can apply to serve as a member of our volunteer staff team, facilitating programs and mentoring their peers. This, too, is a valuable continuation of skill development.

OASL programs go beyond personal development and focus on the importance of group and community development, emphasizing that leadership is not about position or personal gain, but about collaboration for making positive change. We maintain a diverse network of educators, business leaders, community organizers, and other subject matter experts that help us keep our curriculum, facilitator training, and organizational initiatives aligned to this greater leadership purpose. We also continuously update our curriculum to match the evolving needs of students, schools, and communities. Within recent years, we have increased our focus on equitable leadership, social identity, implicit bias, community organizing, and action planning. We also update our curriculum to incorporate the latest Ohio Department of Education's Social Emotional Learning Standards and the Whole Child Framework.

OASL's leadership team is a group of talented Ohio educators, including a school counselor, a high school teacher, an elementary school teacher, and a 20-year classroom teacher/nov full-time leadership development professional. Our program directors are all OASL alumni, going back to their own middle school years. Our adult staff members come from a variety of professional backgrounds with years of facilitation and youth development experience. Our peer education model includes a team of thoughtful, responsible, engaged high school and college students who help with program facilitation. With the expertise of our leadership team combined with the talent of our extended network, OASL's commitment to and preparation for training Ohio's student leaders is unparalleled.

Finally, OASL stands on 68 years of experience in the youth leadership education and development world. Our longevity has resulted in an enormous group of alumni that extends across the globe who, without hesitation, credit OASL for contributing to their personal and professional success, fond memories, and lifelong friendships.

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## **What does success look like?**

Over the next three years, OASL is committed to a 50% or more growth of Ohio middle school and high school involvement. When more students - and students from diverse areas and identities - are learning about leadership in community together, their capacity for engaging in leadership for social change increases, and they have greater opportunity for developing transformative relationships (Dugan and Komives, 2010; Rocco, 2017). Access to engaging, transformative leadership development is lacking in diverse communities like those represented in urban and rural areas of Ohio. Increasing access to OASL programs in the state means better serving populations of students that are historically left out of leadership education and development opportunities. In addition, we know that developing student leaders for positive social change requires opportunities for dialogue across difference and experiential learning that includes diverse perspectives. If we are to make real, lasting change in Ohio's schools and communities, increased engagement amongst Ohio's diverse student population is crucial.

Students reflect on and self-report their newly discovered personal strengths as a result of their participation in our programs. Due to the coronavirus, 2019 was the last time we hosted in person events. While we're proud to have pivoted our programs to online and virtual platforms in 2020, we know the greatest learning and growth outcomes occur when students are face-to-face. We eagerly look forward to our return to site-based events as soon as it is safe to do so. In 2019, 98% of respondents reported positive growth outcomes from their experience in our programs. The following were most often identified as their greatest area of growth after participating in our programs:

- 56% named that their greatest improvement was in the area of self confidence.
- 31% reported their greatest improvement was in their comfort voicing opinions, communicating with others and/or speaking in front of a large group
- 35% felt their greatest area of improvement was in their ability to be more outgoing, vulnerable, make connections with peers and strangers
- 25% reported that the greatest improvement was in being more kind, considerate, empathetic and inclusive of others

We receive a great deal of qualitative feedback from our students and alumni alike about the ways in which they feel empowered, challenged, motivated and inclusive as a result of their experiences in our programs.

We take pride in our programs and their impact. We are committed because we believe that what we do matters. We want to reach more students to better equip them for personal success and service to others. We energize and embolden our students with our mantra, "What is learned here, leaves here." As a result, OASL students and alumni positively impact their schools and communities by utilizing the relevant, necessary, and in-demand skills and attitudes we develop and foster.

**OASL**  
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**Want to learn more and connect?**

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# 2021 OASL SUMMER LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

You are invited to nominate and register 1 or more outstanding Middle or High School Student Leaders Today!





February 1, 2021

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Since its founding in 1953, OASL has been offering leadership development programming to students across the state of Ohio. As our mission states, we are “dedicated to the teaching of leadership skills, organizational skills, and people skills valuable to the members and officers of all student organizations.” OASL empowers students to discover their passion and develop their capacity for leadership for one common goal: to create positive change in our Ohio schools & communities.

For the past 67 summers, Summer Workshop has been OASL’s signature and premier experience, described by many as life-changing and the highlight of their summer. Through experiential learning activities, this 5 day, 4 night summer camp experience helps students develop personal and group leadership skills, set and achieve worthy goals, pursue challenges, and take ownership for responsibilities. Following summer workshops, students return to their schools & communities with knowledge, conviction, and understanding which will empower them to positively impact all they encounter.

This packet includes information on how to nominate and register one or more outstanding student leaders in Middle Level (entering grades 7-9) or Senior High (entering grades 10-12). **Registration for Summer Workshop is open now with a registration deadline of June 1, 2021.** Head to **OASL-OH.ORG/EVENTS** to register and learn more about workshop dates, locations, registration fees, and OASL contact information.

OASL aims to positively impact and elevate student leaders in all organizations, clubs, athletic teams, and school groups in Ohio. We invite you and your students to be a part of this important mission. We hope you will support your students as they learn to serve, connect, and inspire their peers, their families, their schools, their communities, and their world.

Connie Miley  
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## Program Levels

Middle Level (ML) workshop is for rising 7, 8, & 9 graders. Senior High (SH) workshop is for rising 10, 11, & 12 graders. We offer 3 levels of programming within both the ML and SH workshops. Your program level is determined by the number of times you have attended our workshops previously.

## 2021 Workshop Design

OASL has been offering summer leadership workshops since 1953. Our 5-day workshops will include a balance of hand-on activities and discussions along with personal growth and reflection opportunities. Students continue to rave about hallmark workshop activities including small council groups, team-building activities, large group sessions, our workshop talent show, and informal opportunities for students to connect 1-on-1 with each other.

## Schools & Educators: Nominate a Student!

Know a great student you'd like to encourage to attend summer workshop? Simply send them a copy of this document and direct them to visit [OASL-OH.org/events](https://www.oasl-oh.org/events) to register. We'll take it from there!

**REGISTER NOW AT**  
**[OASL-OH.ORG/EVENTS](https://www.oasl-oh.org/events)**

## 2021 OASL SUMMER WORKSHOPS

**JULY 11-15**

CAPITAL UNIVERSITY IN COLUMBUS  
[MIDDLE LEVEL & SENIOR HIGH]

**JULY 18-22**

OHIO UNIVERSITY IN ATHENS  
[SENIOR HIGH]

## New for 2021

Building from our 2020 workshops, we will continue conversations and action planning regarding equity in our schools, and hold our Ohio IMPACT session with local leaders. We will also engage in a workshop-wide service learning opportunity!

## All Students Welcome

OASL programs positively impact and elevate student leaders in all organizations, clubs, athletic teams, and school groups. Program content is relevant across contexts, helping all students learn to serve, connect, and inspire their peers, families, schools, communities, and the world.

Scan this code to learn more about OASL in 3 minutes, and follow us on social media!



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[@The\\_OASL](https://twitter.com/The_OASL)



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# 2021 SUMMER WORKSHOP FAQs



## **Who can participate in Summer Workshop?**

Any middle or high school student can participate in Summer Workshop! Students entering grades 7-9 participate in our Middle Level program, while students entering grades 10-12 participate in our Senior High Program. We welcome back our returning summer workshop students and are excited to bring new students into the OASL family this summer!

## **What kind of student should I nominate to attend?**

OASL Summer Workshop is for ANY student leader! OASL delegates strive to set a positive example for others, are open minded, take positive risks, have the courage to speak up and try to make their school or community a better and more equitable place for others.

## **What does my registration fee cover?**

Your registration fee includes your workshop t-shirt, your meals for the week, on campus housing and facilities, your workshop guidebook, and supporting materials for our sessions and activities!

## **What workshop level do I sign up for this summer?**

As usual, Middle Level delegates attending for the first time should select "Delegate", second time should select "ALT," and third time should select "ML3." Senior High delegates attending for the first time should select "Senior High 1," second time should select "Senior High 2," and third time should select "Senior High 3."

## **I was supposed to attend my second or third summer in 2020. What level should I sign up for this year?**

Students who attended our online workshop in 2020 are welcome to attend the next level of programming in 2021 or repeat their same level from last year if they would like the in-person experience. Students are also welcome to "double up" for two workshops this summer, redoing their level from last year and also completing the next level both in 2021.

## **How might the current pandemic affect Summer Workshop?**

While OASL anticipates being able to host our in-person workshops, safety is a primary concern for all of us. We will continue to monitor the pandemic situation across the United States and with Capital & Ohio University. OASL plans to follow both university and state recommendations and guidelines. If it is determined that we cannot safely host an in-person program, we will transition to a live, virtual, or hybrid format, similar to our successful 2020 Summer Workshop Reimagined program. Any changes in program format will be communicated with schools, students and parents/guardians, and registration fees will be adjusted accordingly.