

YOUTH PREPAREDNESS

EMPOWERING THE NATION'S FUTURE



FEMA

WHY YOUTH PREPAREDNESS?

Emergencies and disasters can happen at any time, often without warning. Children have unique strengths when it comes to disaster planning. These strengths can be leveraged to help make our communities safer, stronger, and more resilient.

Children are positive influencers. Educators and social researchers agree that children can effectively bring the message of preparedness home to their families.

Children can become leaders. By participating in youth preparedness programs, children are empowered to become leaders at home and in their schools and communities.

Children who are prepared are more confident during emergencies and disasters. Social science research supports the idea that children who have learned about emergency preparedness experience less anxiety during an actual emergency or disaster.

Youth preparedness programs across the country provide the knowledge and skills youth need. Youth preparedness practitioners and supporters help to build, sustain, and improve our nation's ability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

FEMA'S YOUTH PREPAREDNESS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

FEMA provides technical assistance (TA) directly to youth preparedness practitioners who request tools, information, and advice about program implementation. Individual assistance is available from the TA Center via FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov.

TOOLS

FEMA's Youth Preparedness TA Center provides a host of resources for those operating youth preparedness programs, including the following:

- Youth Preparedness Catalogue: Disaster Preparedness Education Programs and Resources
- Youth Preparedness: Implementing a Community-Based Program
- Youth Preparedness Program Implementation Workbook
- Youth Preparedness Program Implementation Checklist
- Youth Preparedness Funding Guide
- Youth Preparedness Quick Tips To Mitigate Risks
- Youth Preparedness Guide to Risk Management

These and additional resources can be found in the "Tools" section of the [Ready.gov Youth Preparedness](http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness) website.



"We need to look at our youth as part of the solution [for community resilience]...we need help to make them stronger."

-Tim Manning

FEMA Deputy Administrator for Protection and National Preparedness

National Summit on Youth Preparedness, Summit Proceedings Report

MORE INFORMATION

Visit:

<http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness>

Email:

FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov

RESOURCES

Youth preparedness efforts are not exclusive to FEMA. A range of organizations believe in the value of educating our nation's youth about disaster preparation, including:

- [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) (AAP) distributes the [AAP Children & Disasters newsletter](#).
- [The Department of Education's Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center](#)
- [American Red Cross](#) provides their [Red Cross Youth](#) resources
- [Save the Children](#) seeks to help protect children around the world from disasters.

NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR YOUTH PREPAREDNESS EDUCATION

FEMA, the American Red Cross, and the Department of Education have created the *National Strategy for Youth Preparedness Education*, which is intended to couple national attention on emergency and disaster preparedness with community action that focuses specifically on youth readiness for disasters and related events. To learn about how to get involved with the *National Strategy*, please email FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov.

YOUTH PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL

FEMA's [Youth Preparedness Council](#) is a unique opportunity for youth leaders to serve on a highly distinguished national council; to complete self-selected youth preparedness projects; to voice their opinions, experiences, ideas, solutions, and questions on youth disaster preparedness with the leadership of FEMA and national organizations working on youth preparedness; and to participate in the Youth Preparedness Council Summit. To learn more about the Council and the work the members are currently doing, please visit the [Council's webpage](#).

YOUTH PREPAREDNESS OUTREACH

FEMA promotes the message of youth preparedness through a variety of methods, including the following:

- The [Children and Disasters Newsletter](#) contains updates about various youth-related initiatives, research, and events. This distribution list is available to anyone interested in topical updates and opportunities related to youth preparedness. To subscribe to the newsletter, please visit the [registration page](#).
- A variety of existing tools and curricula are available to individuals starting youth preparedness programs, and the *Youth Preparedness Catalogue: Disaster Preparedness Education Programs and Resources* (found in the "Tools" section of the [Ready.gov Youth Preparedness](#) website) provides a wealth of information about existing programs, curricula, and resources. Two such existing curricula are [Student Tools for Emergency Planning \(STEP\)](#) and [Teen Community Emergency Response Team \(Teen CERT\)](#).
- STEP is a curriculum tailored to teaching fourth and fifth grade students to be prepared for disasters at school and at home. Teen CERT training equips teens with the knowledge to keep themselves and others safe during an emergency and provides members with lifelong leadership skills. Free Teen CERT materials are available online via the "Teen CERT Resources" section of the [Teen CERT](#) webpage and the [CERT Training Materials page](#), or by emailing FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov.
- The [National Preparedness Community](#) provides discussion forums, resources, and event notifications related to preparedness. The [Educators, Parents, and Youth](#) community of practice is tailored specifically to individuals working with youth.
- The FEMA [Publications Warehouse](#) can provide a variety of free brochures, documents, and training materials related to preparedness. Please visit their website or email fema-publications-warehouse@fema.gov for more information.

MORE INFORMATION

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