

Parents and Students:

YOVASO is excited to invite students to our 2024 Summer Leadership Retreat at James Madison University on July 11-14, 2024. The theme this year is Planet and Space.

What's YOVASO All About:

Youth of Virginia Speak Out About Traffic Safety (YOVASO) is a statewide peer-to-peer education and leadership program that empowers teenagers to work towards the prevention of motor vehicle crashes. Our mission is to engage, educate, and empower you, our youth, to influence a safe driving culture in your schools and communities. Which is what the Retreat helps kick off!

What Can You Expect While at the Retreat:

- Working in a team with other students from across the state to build leadership skills throughout the week.
- Motivational speakers on youth leadership
- Outdoor, hands-on safety activities
- Action planning for the upcoming school year
- Nightly socials
- Personal stories about teen crashes
- Behind-the-Wheel defensive driving exercises
- Fun, team-building activities

YOVASO is Looking for Students Who Are:

- Interested in being positive role models among your peers
- Committed to learning about and making smart choices when it comes to driver and passenger safety
- Eager and comfortable working throughout the Retreat with a diverse team of students from across the state

If this describes you, then the YOVASO Summer Leadership Retreat will be right up your road! REGISTER NOW!

This four-day, three-night retreat includes overnight accommodations, meals, educational sessions, t-shirts, backpacks, and materials. The dorm rooms will be in Chesapeake Hall and all activities will be in or near the Festival Conference Center. Students will share a dorm room with another individual, so if you want to bring a friend, request them as your roommate.

To Register:

You can go to yovaso.org/retreats to fill out the Registration form online or you can print it off and mail to YOVASO/VSP Public Relations Office at PO Box 27472, Richmond, VA 23261. The price for the Retreat is only \$15 per person. The deadline to register is June 21, but register early to reserve your spot for the B.R.A.K.E.S. Defensive Driving experience as space is limited to the first 60 students with a learner's or driver's license who register to participate (see retreat registration form and the YOVASO website at yovaso.org/summer-retreat/ for more details on the B.R.A.K.E.S. program).

The B.R.A.K.E.S. program will require ALL Retreat attendees and staff to travel off campus to a location large enough to hold such a driving event. Students who are not driving or riding with B.R.A.K.E.S. will also travel off campus to participate in the YOVASO Distracted Driving Simulator and other driving type rotations. This session will be at the Manheim in Harrisonburg at 3560 Early Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22801, approximately 5 miles from the JMU campus. YOVASO will be using JMU transportation to charter a bus to take the students back forth from campus to the location. This off-campus activity will be on Friday, July 12, with the bus departing at 7:30 a.m. and returning to campus at 12:30 pm.

***Note:** The Retreat will involve participants being outside for several hours each day, sit/stand/pay attention for 1-2 hours, walk/run for short distances, and be engaging with a diverse group of students. If you have any questions about Retreat activities, you can call me at 804-512-4573 or email at molly.jackson@vsp.virginia.gov. A tentative Retreat agenda will be posted on the YOVASO website by March 15.

If you are interested in leadership, learning more about how to be a safer driver and passenger, and being an influencer for safe driving in your school and community, we hope you will join us for the 2023 YOVASO Retreat.

Sincerely,
Molly Jackson,
YOVASO Marketing and Training Coordinator

