



## Hello Students and Parents!

YOVASO is excited to invite you to the 2026 Summer Leadership Retreat at James Madison University, happening July 16–19, 2026! This year's carnival-themed retreat, "Your Ticket to Safer Roads," is all about making smart choices, staying safe behind the wheel, and still having an unforgettable summer. You'll meet peers from across Virginia, build real leadership skills, and gain valuable traffic safety knowledge. The best part? It's only \$15 per student! Rising 9th graders through graduating seniors are eligible to attend.

### What's YOVASO All About:

Youth of Virginia Speak Out About Traffic Safety (YOVASO) is a statewide peer-to-peer education and leadership program for teens that focuses on building generations of safe teen drivers in Virginia. Our mission is to empower you, our youth, to influence a safe driving culture in your schools and communities. We sponsor the Retreat annually to help students learn safe driving and passenger safety skills. Plus, you will also learn about leadership and how to work in your school and community to save lives!

### What Can You Expect While At The Retreat:

Throughout the 4-day Retreat, you will be placed on one of 10 teams and will work with students from across the state on creative projects and leadership-building activities with a traffic safety focus. Some of the daily experiences will include:

- Motivational speakers on youth leadership
- Personal stories from parents and teens
- Amazing Race team competition with a carnival theme
- Guided workshops to help you plan safety projects and activities for your school or learn leadership skills
- [Distracted Driving Simulator](#) course with VSP Troopers and other interactive safety exercises
- Innovative team-building activities
- Fun, nightly socials including pajama night!

### Are You a Student Who Is:

- Committed to learning about and making smart choices when it comes to driver and passenger safety
- Interested in being positive role models among your peers
- Interested in meeting and networking with diverse students from across the state who share your interest in safe driving

If this describes you, then you should register for this year's retreat!

This four-day, three-night retreat includes overnight accommodations, meals, educational sessions, t-shirts, backpacks, and materials. The dorm rooms will be in Chandler 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 or For More Information:

Visit [www.yovaso.org/summer-retreat/](http://www.yovaso.org/summer-retreat/) find more Retreat information and the student registration form. The Retreat is only \$15 per student and can be mailed to the YOVASO address or submitted via PayPal on the YOVASO website. The deadline to register is June 19, but register early to reserve your spot! Keep in mind that space is limited and expected to fill. A waitlist will begin once we reach capacity. If you are attending with a school team, check with the adult sponsor at your school for instructions on payment.

**Note:** The Retreat will involve **daily** activities that require participants to be outside for several hours, to sit/stand/engage in workshops or presentations for 1-2 hours, walk/run for short distances, and participate on a team with a diverse group of students. If you have any questions about Retreat activities, please email me at [callie.toler@vsp.virginia.gov](mailto:callie.toler@vsp.virginia.gov) or call (804) 914-2532. A tentative Retreat agenda will be posted on the YOVASO website by March 20.

If you are interested in leadership, learning how to be a safer driver and passenger, and being a positive influence for safe driving in your school and community, we hope you will join us for the 2026 YOVASO Retreat.

Sincerely,  
Callie Toler  
Retreat Director