

# YOUTH COMMUNITY EXPLOSION—STARKVILLE, MS



Now in our 3rd year, YCE has impacted more than 50 youth and their families in discipleship, tutoring, mentoring, and leadership training. In 2018, we will be proposing to youth court that YCE be considered an alternative to detention for

non-violent offenders, 9-17 years-old. Pray with us as we expand our outreach to youth who are at such a critical time in their lives.



Kids who used to have anger issues are now helping to lead our younger youth; those who once complained loudly when asked to serve others now bring ideas to the table for service projects. Fun now comes in harmless ways, not at someone else's expense. Developing Godly character is as important as academic achievement and financial stability, and immensely more important than popularity, being cool, or being feared. That is why we make a priority of Bible study, mentoring, and modeling healthy lifestyles and relationships. Knowing you are loved and have a place to belong, a value that you alone can bring, is



Touring museums helps you learn about how others did great things. Serving those who serve you helps you learn how you can do great things!



**YCE CREED:** It is my desire to glorify God as an endless flame.

It is my commitment to walk by faith and not be ashamed. It is my hope to be the spark of light in this dark world, and my promise to ignite my world.



Introducing our youth to the possibilities that await them is an important part of what we do. Here, the boys are enjoying the “fun” part of an agricultural exhibit sponsored by Mississippi State University. This year, they have toured several universities, industries, and museums. We have also hosted a career fair and had visiting speakers address subjects like banking, entrepreneurship, hair-dressing, nursing, etc.

Now into our 3rd year, YCE has truly made a difference in the lives of the youth of North Starkville. C-level students are now taking high school AP classes. They are looking ahead toward college and taking steps to achieve their goals. We have an army of volunteers who serve weekly as tutors, and others who volunteer to chaperone trips or make the daily meal. We have even had several local artisans share their talents and give introductory lessons in dance, painting, and crafting.



Left: Kennedy and Omariana, who graduated from our program last year and have returned as junior counselors, are pictured here with Cyla, a 6th grader.

Right: Our current youth staff: Blake Adams, Maggie Connor, Leah Winters, and Sarah Brister.



“God sees you in your destiny, not in your history.” Bill Buckley