

## About Us

The AYLUS Pearland branch, part of the Alliance of Youth Leaders of the U.S. (AYLUS), is located in the southern Greater Houston area. Established in 2015 by three high school students, the branch has rapidly grown to over 400 youth members. AYLUS Pearland organizes more than 300 volunteer events annually, empowering youth to develop leadership, integrity, and innovation skills. As an authorized sponsor of the President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA), the branch logged 9,700 community service hours in the 2023-24 reporting year, with over 50 members qualifying for the award.

### Tracks

To further enrich their experience, AYLUS Pearland offers a variety of community service tracks, allowing members to focus on their passions. These tracks include City and Neighborhood Support, Healthy Future, Youth Entrepreneur, SMILE 4 Special Needs, Achieve Together, and STEM & Tech. Led by adult professionals, these tracks provide hands-on mentorship and real-world experience, often leading to internships. This structure enables young volunteers to acquire valuable skills while making meaningful contributions to their community.

### Fostering the Leaders of Tomorrow

AYLUS Pearland is passionately committed to fostering and nurturing leadership skills in young individuals. Through engaging hands-on experiences, transformative training, and leadership experience, we empower and equip youth with essential leadership qualities, including effective communication, collaborative teamwork, and innovative problem-solving skills. Join us on an exciting journey of personal growth and

self-discovery, as we unlock your potential to become a confident and compassionate leader!

## Uniting Communities and Transforming Lives

We take pride in uniting communities and transforming lives through a diverse array of impactful events. From our spectacular Lunar New Year Gala, where vibrant traditions come alive, to our dedicated fundraising efforts that support local organizations, businesses, and school clubs. Various upcoming events may start from the doors of your own house, or even stretch to multiple countries across the whole globe. Our efforts extend to organizing donation drives for unfortunate families, community volunteering initiatives, and so much more. Each and every event is an opportunity to build bridges, ignite change, and create a world where compassion, generosity, and unity prevail to leave a lasting difference!

## Empowering Communities with Compassion

We embrace the power of diversity and inclusion, working passionately to create a world where everyone thrives. From lending a helping hand at community-run events to fostering meaningful connections with students with special needs, we are committed to making a positive impact on the lives of others. Whether we are organizing engaging activities, providing educational support, or spreading joy through acts of kindness, we believe that small actions can create transformative change. Together, let's inspire, empower, and create a world where everyone's potential is celebrated and leave a lasting legacy on the community!

## More About Us

But not everything is serious at AYLUS! Immerse yourself in a vibrant carnival of creativity with our talented face painters, who transform smiles into colorful masterpieces. Experience a whimsical twist with our skilled balloon twisters, who shape dreams into delightful creations. For sports enthusiasts and game lovers, join us in a spirited playground of laughter, competition, and unforgettable memories! These fun events not only foster a sense of community but also promote team building and youth development, creating lasting bonds and invaluable skills among our members. AYLUS Pearland is open to everyone, so join us on the journey of personal growth, friendship, and making a difference in our community!

## **City and Neighbor Support**

Since its establishment in 2015, AYLUS Pearland has been committed to serving the local community. The first series of community service projects involved visiting local nursing homes, and over the years, the organization has partnered with the City of Pearland's Parks and Recreation Department to support major city events. Now, a decade later, AYLUS Pearland has grown into a key volunteer force, providing essential support for city-wide events. For example, during the annual July 4th celebration, AYLUS Pearland supplied more than 80 youth and adult volunteers to oversee 30 inflatables, serving thousands, and sometimes tens of thousands, of visitors.

Since 2018, AYLUS Pearland has also teamed up with the Pearland Chinese Association to host the Pearland Lunar New Year Gala and Festival. This event has become one of the most popular winter festivals in the city, attracting thousands of attendees each year. Through organizing such large-scale events, AYLUS Pearland volunteers gain valuable real-world experience in event planning, team coordination, and promotional efforts.

## Enriching the Lives of Seniors

Each year, AYLUS Pearland volunteers visit nursing homes and senior centers in the Greater Houston area, especially during the summer and holiday seasons. Volunteers bring talent shows and holiday gifts, spending time with the seniors and brightening their days through personal interactions.

## Preserving the Environment

AYLUS Pearland actively supports Keep Pearland Beautiful, helping to plant hundreds of trees in local parks, clean up ponds, maintain community gardens, and pick up trash in city parks. These efforts contribute to keeping Pearland green and beautiful.

## Supporting Education

AYLUS Pearland volunteers actively assist with school district events, including multicultural festivals, PTA events like elementary school trunk-or-treats, and high school PTA charity runs. In 2021, AYLUS Pearland donated 800 books to Communities in Schools, supporting students' educational needs. In addition to school events, volunteers contribute to the local library by donating books and assisting with book sales, fostering a love for reading and supporting literacy initiatives.

Through the Achieve Together Track, AYLUS Pearland volunteers support other youth organizations and provide tutoring for school-aged children. These efforts enrich the educational experiences of students and the broader community, promoting both academic success and personal growth.

## Engaging in Community Celebrations

AYLUS Pearland has become the primary volunteer resource for many of the City of Pearland's major events, such as Spring Fest, the Summer Concert Series, the July 4th

Celebration, the Turkey Trot Charity Run, and the Tour de Lites Holiday Ride. Since 2016, AYLUS Pearland has also co-hosted the annual Easter Egg Hunt, where volunteers prepare thousands of eggs for local children to enjoy during the Easter holiday. The city and community consistently rely on AYLUS Pearland's steady and dependable volunteer support for these events, helping to create memorable experiences for residents while fostering community engagement.

### Preserving Culture and Promoting Diversity

Since 2018, AYLUS Pearland has partnered with the Pearland Chinese Association to organize the annual Pearland Lunar New Year Gala. Initially attended by 500 people, the event has grown significantly, now drawing over 3,000 visitors. AYLUS Pearland volunteers take the lead in all aspects of the event, from planning to execution. At the 2024 event, nearly 200 youth volunteers and their parents contributed in various roles, such as managing sales and cultural booths, coordinating performances, decorating the venue, and overseeing the food court. This collaboration fosters cultural awareness, promotes diversity, and helps preserve important traditions within the community.

### Donation Drive and Emergency Response

AYLUS Pearland has consistently organized donation drives to support underprivileged communities. Each clothing drive collects at least 2,000 pieces of clothing, which are donated to missionaries traveling to Mexico. Since 2022, AYLUS Pearland has also organized food drives to support the Pearland Neighborhood Center, with each drive collecting over 100 pounds of dry and canned food. Additionally, volunteers collect over 100 pounds of candy annually after Halloween, which is packed and sent to children in Mexico for holiday celebrations.

During Hurricane Harvey in 2017, volunteers launched a GoFundMe campaign that raised more than \$4,000 to support those in need. They also gathered food, clothing, and essentials, and assisted at local community centers and churches with collecting and sorting donation items. During the COVID-19 pandemic, AYLUS Pearland organized a donation drive that raised thousands of dollars and collected 100 N95

masks. In collaboration with the Pearland Chinese Association, they secured additional medical supplies—including N95 masks and protective suits—resulting in a total donation valued at over \$50,000. These supplies were donated to medical professionals and first responders at 20 organizations, including Methodist Hospital, Memorial Hermann Hospital, and MD Anderson Cancer Center. Their efforts were featured in the Houston Chronicle and Community Impact. Additionally, volunteers supported the Houston Mayor’s Response Team by distributing food to 2,000 low-income households.

## **Youth Entrepreneur**

AYLUS Pearland has engaged in various fundraising activities to support its volunteer initiatives and local community organizations. Through these efforts, volunteers gain hands-on experience in communication, project management, sales, operations, and even merger and acquisition processes. Many youth interested in business have dedicated themselves to this track, developing crucial entrepreneurial skills. Early fundraising focused on community garage sales and driveway power washing. However, since 2021, AYLUS Pearland has explored increasingly innovative fundraising methods.

### **Year Round Plant Sale**

Launched in Spring 2021 following a winter storm, AYLUS Pearland initiated a plant and seedling sale. Every February, the group hosts a Seeds Exchange Event, bringing the community together to exchange seeds and share gardening knowledge. As the year progresses, AYLUS Pearland organizes vegetable seedling sales, succulent sales, summer flower sales, and autumn plant sales. All proceeds from the sales are donated to support the special needs community.

## Block Party Fundraising

AYLUS Pearland collaborates with local businesses to host block party fundraisers, where volunteers engage in activities such as balloon twisting and face painting to raise funds while promoting the businesses. Partnerships with Jeremiah's Italian Ice and Best Donuts of Pearland have enabled AYLUS Pearland to donate all proceeds to the special needs community.

## Tealine Social Enterprise

In the summer of 2023, AYLUS Pearland acquired Tealine, a student-run boba tea business, led by William and Alexander Sun. Through this acquisition, volunteers learned essential business skills such as due diligence, financial and market analysis, contract writing, and operations management. The group expanded the business by introducing new products like lemonade with chia seeds and promoting them at local markets. All proceeds support school clubs and sports teams.

## Birthday Party Service

Building on experience gained in balloon twisting, face painting, and cotton candy making, AYLUS Pearland launched a Birthday Party Service in 2024, led by Tina Dong. Volunteers offer customizable party packages with services including balloon twisting, face painting, cotton candy, and clown shows. Fees are based on the number of guests, services selected, and the duration of the party. Proceeds support the special needs community, and the service also provides complimentary birthday parties for children with special needs.

## Fundraising Partnerships with Local Markets and Warehouses

Since 2023, AYLUS Pearland has partnered with local markets such as the Old Pearland Farmers' Market, Pearland Market Days, and Pearland Town Center Vendor Fair to negotiate free sales booths in exchange for volunteer services, including greeting guests and assisting at welcome desks. Local warehouses also contribute to fundraising efforts by donating surplus merchandise such as school supplies, household items, and sports gear. All sales proceeds support the LSA Special Needs Caring Center and the Ed White Elementary School tutoring program.

## **Achieve Together**

Achieve Together Track at AYLUS Pearland is dedicated to supporting fellow youth organizations in schools and the broader community through collaborative projects that promote education, youth development, and leadership growth. This track aims to foster partnerships and provide opportunities for youth to support one another, enhancing both their personal growth and the development of their peers.

Through the Achieve Together Track, AYLUS Pearland youth members gain leadership experience while making meaningful contributions to the development of their peers, schools, and communities.

## Ed White Tutoring Project



A tutoring initiative since 2022 for students at Ed White Elementary School, where over 90% of students come from low-income families. The tutoring sessions occur on Saturdays during the school year and continue through summer school. AYLUS Pearland not only provides tutoring but also donates funds for awards and other incentives to motivate students to attend and excel.

### Community Enrichment Classes

A variety of classes are offered to the community since 2016, including art (led by Wendy Yin and Wyatt Yin), dance (Led by Abigail Zheng and Anna Zheng), and chess (led by Jordan Zheng, Marc Lu, Joshua Meng), to help foster creativity and critical thinking among youth.

### Online Tutoring

During COVID period, in response to the pandemic, AYLUS Pearland organized online summer classes in math and English to support students' academic progress during school closures. Initiated by Aila Jiang in 2021, AYLUS Pearland volunteers provide online tutoring for elementary school students, including non-native English speakers. A small fee is charged for this service, and all proceeds support the Ed White Elementary School tutoring program. The program not only raises funds but also trains junior volunteers in teaching, preparing them for roles in the in-person tutoring program at Ed White Elementary.

### Tennis and Swimming Classes (Slam & Splash)

Originally offered as free community classes, tennis and swimming lessons faced challenges in securing facilities. In 2023, AYLUS Pearland restructured these programs into fundraising events. The tennis lessons are led by William Sun. Alexander Sun and Derek Zhu, in collaboration with local high school tennis teams, which provide their courts during the summer. The swimming lessons are led by Edwin and Eric Gao and follow a similar format. The Slam & Splash fundraising initiative has successfully raised thousands of dollars to support student sports teams, clubs, and other volunteer programs.

### Achieve Together Fund

Established in 2022, this fund provides financial support to student clubs and sports teams in the Greater Houston area. All funds distributed are raised through AYLUS Pearland's fundraising efforts. The fund has made a significant impact:

- o In 2022, \$1,950 was awarded to 6 organizations.
- o In 2023, \$5,700 was awarded to 10 organizations.
- o In 2024, \$4,000 was awarded to 12 organizations.

## Branch Officials

Matthew Niu

Co-President (2024-Present)

Hello, my name is Matthew Niu. I am a co-president of AYLUS Pearland for 2024-2025, and I am a senior at Dawson High School. I am very passionate about volunteering and hope to improve and help the community. I also love playing video games, hanging out with my friends, and watching movies.

William Sun

Co-President (2024-Present)

Hi, I'm William Sun, a current senior attending Glenda Dawson High School. I value hard work, relish my time on the tennis court, and am known for my inherent kindness and willingness to assist others. I strive to maintain a harmonious balance between my academic pursuits and personal endeavors while also enjoying my high school life. Feel free to ask me any questions if you see me around!

Alia Jiang - Vice President

Zide Liu - Vice President

Jonathan Niu - Vice President

Alexander Sun - Vice President

Wendy Yin - Vice President

Derek Zhu - Vice President

Abigail Zheng - Secretary

Erick Gao - Secretary

Alvin Zheng - Treasurer

Tina Dong - Public Relations

Jordan Zheng - Public Relations

Edwin Gao - Operation Officer

Kara Li - Operation Officer

Katherine Wu - Operation Officer

Wyatt Yin - Operation Officer

Project leads: Anna Zheng, Iris Yang, Krishna Singh, Gavin Song, Alex Song, Marc Lu, Emma Lu, Eddie Fu, Roy Zheng, Ethan Gao

## **Youth SMILE 4 Special Needs**

Initiated in the summer of 2021 by then-junior members Aila Jiang and Kara Li, the SMILE 4 Special Needs track has evolved from a simple youth buddy system into a comprehensive youth-led initiative aimed at serving and advocating for the special needs community. Through these programs, youth volunteers not only contribute to building a more inclusive community but also gain invaluable skills in leadership, empathy, problem-solving, and teamwork, enriching their own personal growth in the process. The track now encompasses four key programs, closely partnered with Hummingbird community Outreach (HCO), each designed to promote inclusion and provide meaningful, skill-building experiences for individuals with special needs.

## Youth-Led SMILE Camp

Originally a basic buddy system, Youth-Led SMILE Camp has grown into a dynamic, youth-driven summer camp where volunteers assist with instructing arts and crafts, music, computer skills, and life skills lessons. By 2024, the camp transitioned to a fully youth-led format, with volunteers developing an innovative curriculum in collaboration with professionals from the center. This curriculum includes multi-skill integrated lessons, a mini-market simulation, mini-Olympics, AI teaching, and a healthy living workshop. The program has earned high praise from both participants and the center's professionals for its inclusive approach and impactful learning experiences.

## Pearland My PlayClub

Pearland My PlayClub is a monthly inclusive play event launched in July 2023 to promote community awareness and inclusion. Sponsored by the City of Pearland and organized by AYLUS Pearland volunteers, the program builds on AYLUS Pearland's longstanding commitment to inclusivity. Since supporting Pearland's first inclusive park in 2021 with a donation and ongoing fundraising efforts, AYLUS Pearland has co-hosted 17 events. The program partners with local organizations and the city to foster inclusive play and is now raising funds for the city's second inclusive park.

## SMILE Inclusive Play & Learn

SMILE Inclusive Play & Learn is a semi-structured program that blends play and learning for children with special needs. AYLUS Pearland, in partnership HCO, has helped youth organizations outside Pearland establish similar programs. Pearland volunteers have shared their experiences and curriculum with youth in Katy, West Houston, and Plano. To date, over 30 SMILE Inclusive Play & Learn sessions have taken place, providing opportunities for children with special needs to engage in enriching and fun activities.

## Bucket Drumming for All

This youth-led initiative teaches bucket drumming to individuals of all ages with special needs. Starting with SMILE Summer Camp, AYLUS Pearland volunteers played bucket drums with adults with special needs and performed across Greater Houston. In the summer of 2024, AYLUS Pearland formally joined HCO's Bucket Drumming for All program, contributing expertise to teach individuals across different age groups. The lessons not only teach rhythm and music but also foster confidence, teamwork, decision-making, and leadership among participants.

## **STEM n Tech**

At AYLUS Pearland, volunteering goes beyond community service—it's a pathway to growth and skill development. Our STEM n Tech Hub provides exciting opportunities for youth passionate about science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Initiated in 2023 by Matthew Niu and Jonathan Niu, this track enables members to apply their STEM knowledge in ways that benefit the broader community. Through the STEM n Tech Hub, AYLUS Pearland encourages youth to engage in meaningful STEM projects, promoting innovation, collaboration, and personal growth.

## **Innovaflow Database Project**

The first major initiative of the STEM n Tech Hub was the development of a volunteer activity tracking and reporting database. In response to the rapid growth of AYLUS Pearland, volunteers worked under the guidance of a parent advisor and an AYLUS alumni to create Innovaflow, a system that accurately tracks volunteer hours and generates reports. This database has been shared with multiple AYLUS branches, providing a valuable tool for managing volunteer operations across regions.

## **Robotics Classes in Collaboration with Pearadox**

In summer 2024, AYLUS Pearland partnered with Pearadox—the Pearland ISD Robotics team—to offer robotics classes for children in the community. Pearadox,

known for their consistent advancement to the FIRST World Championship finals, brings their expertise and passion for robotics to this initiative. Together, AYLUS Pearland volunteers and Pearadox team members create an engaging, hands-on learning experience for young participants, fostering interest in robotics and STEM fields.

## Website Development and Digital Solutions

Launched in summer 2024, led by Andy Shi, this project enables volunteers to collaborate with community partners on website development and digital solutions. With the guidance of a parent advisor, volunteers successfully built websites for partners and are in the process of creating a new website for AYLUS Pearland. This initiative not only enhances the organization's digital presence but also equips participants with practical skills in web development and digital marketing.

## **Our History:Status: HONOR**

Branch of the Year Awards (2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024)



Branch of the Month Awards: 2021(APR, JUL, AUG, NOV, DEC), 2022 (FEB-APR, JUL-DEC), 2023 (JAN-DEC), 2024 (JAN-JULY)

The AYLUS Pearland branch, part of the Alliance of Youth Leaders of the U.S. (AYLUS), is located in the southern part of the greater Houston area. Established in 2015 by three high school students, the branch has experienced rapid growth, now boasting over 400 youth members. AYLUS Pearland organizes more than 300 volunteer events annually, helping youth develop leadership, integrity, and innovation skills through their participation. Additionally, AYLUS is an authorized sponsor of the Presidential Volunteer Service Award (PVSA). In the reporting year of 2023-24 alone, Pearland branch logged 9700 community service hours, and more than 50 members qualified for PVSA.

**Branch Founders:** Kevin Chen, Tony Liu, Jason Jiang

2023-2024 Officers/Project Leads:

President: Matthew Niu, William Sun

Vice President: Aila Jiang, Derek Zhu

Secretary: Jonathan Niu, Tina Dong

Treasurer: Alvin Zheng

Public Relations Officer: Alexander Sun, Wendy Yin

Operation Officer: Jordan Zheng, Zide Liu, Kara Li, Sasha Kuzmenko

Project Leads: Alex Song, Gavin Song, Edwin Gao, Ethan Gao, Erick Gao, Taylor Chan, Marc Lu, Alexander Healy

2022-2023 Officers/project Leads:

Officers: Kate Liu, Thomas Liang, Fred Guo, Eric Qi, Yurui He, Matthew Niu, William Sun, Howard Shi, Derek Zhu, Sophia Fu, Aila Jiang, Bharat Salvady.

Project Leads: Wendy Yin, Tina Dong, Alvin Zheng, Alexander Sun, Zide Liu, Michael Meng, Jonathan Niu, Jordan Zheng.

2020-2022 Officers:

Andy Gu, Andy Jiang, Kate Liu, Jayden Lu, Thomas Liang, Eric Qi, Michael Meng, Aaron Wu, Baron Niu, Mihir Kalvakaalva.

2019-2020 Officers:

Kate Liu, Andy Jiang, Andy Gu, Kathryn Guan, Ben Liang, Luxin Peng, Kathy Liang, Janie Chen, and Katherine Zhong.

2018-2019 Officers:

Terry Guo, Hans Wang, Vincent Yang, Jerry Gu, Benjamin Liang, Tony Liu, Karen Lu, Andy Gu, Ethan Chen, Andy Jiang, Katherine Zhong, Janie Chen, Kate Liu.

2015-2018 Officers:

Vincent Yang, Jerry Gu, Han Lu, Tony Liu, William Li, Kevin Chen, Jason Jiang, and Grace Liu. Donna Liu, Jenny Yu, and Xinyi Zhu.

Our Partners:

## **Sponsors**

Light and Salt Association

Hogg Foundation for Mental Health

DeHoyos Accident Attorneys

## **Partners**

City of Pearland

Pearland Town Center Vendor Fair

Carlston Elementary School PTA

Jeremiah Italian Ice

Old Pearland Farmers Market

Keep Pearland Beautiful

Jim's Jungle

Dawson High School PTA

Pearland Canine Rescue Center

Forever Parks Foundation

East Seals Greater Houston

Community in Schools

Wampii Studio

T21 Family Outreach

Pearland Chinese Association

Sunshine Community Center\

Challenger Elementary School PTA

LSA Special Needs Caring Center

## Pearland Market Days