



Project Examples

Youth Innovation Projects fall into 8 different types/categories:

- Advocacy/Community Engagement
- Arts and Creativity
- Family Engagement
- Health and Fitness
- Technology
- Unified Schools
- Unified Sports
- Women Empowerment

Read about a few of the completed Youth Innovation Projects below. These examples can help you come up with a project idea to lead in your school or community!

Advocacy/Community Engagement

- [Expanding Employment Opportunities \(SO Guam\)](#)
 - Employment is crucial, especially to people with ID (intellectual disabilities). However, recruitment processes have not been providing equal opportunities to them. Youth Leaders will create a platform to connect people with ID. with employers in order to help create an inclusive job market to individuals with ID. The project also includes a “We are Ready to Work” Campaign.
- [Empowering Self-Advocacy \(SO Zimbabwe\)](#)
 - Through this project, Makaita and Ayisha will work to form inclusive groups in schools and communities to educate and train young people to be their own advocate
- [Social Media for Social Change \(SO Kenya\)](#)
 - David and Calvin will encourage positive online engagement by hosting a workshop on how young people can maintain a healthy relationship with their online presence.

Arts and Creativity

- [Singing Inclusion in Venezuela \(SO Venezuela\)](#)
 - By creating their own inclusive choir, Jose Antonio and Maria Daniela are empowering the Unified Generation to advocate for inclusion in all areas.
- [Dance and Yoga to Improve Quality of Life for Youth with ID \(SO Bharat\)](#)
 - Through lived experience, Aakriti and Alankar believe that their project will reduce stigma and build a supportive, well-informed community for youth with intellectual disabilities. Aakriti and Alankar will work with local schools in the community to integrate dance and yoga as a part of the daily routine for athletes with intellectual disabilities, empower them through dance recitals performed with an audience, and reduce stigma by educating and involving youth without intellectual disabilities.
- [Inclusive Inclusive Music \(SO El Salvador\)](#)
 - Alejandra and Alex are siblings and Special Olympics Youth Leaders from El Salvador who will lead a Youth Innovation Project to unite people through music by connecting with local music schools to hold a music workshop for participants with and without intellectual disabilities. In doing so, Alejandra and Alex will promote culture and art, encourage creativity, spread awareness and inspire new Youth Leaders.



Family Engagement

- [Fun with Young Athletes \(SO El Salvador\)](#)
 - Maria and Sixto aim to partner with nursery schools for children without intellectual disabilities to involve them alongside children with intellectual disabilities in inclusive Young Athletes activities. The project will focus on training teachers and educating parents on the importance of inclusion.
- [Floorball for Fun \(SO El Salvador\)](#)
 - Ana and Carlos hope floorball will lead to many days of engaging sport and a lifetime of inclusion. To create a competition with the new sport, Ana and Carlos will begin by inviting families to compete against each other in floorball.
- [Inclusive Sewing Camp to Foster Bonding and Support for Siblings \(SO Senegal\)](#)
 - The inclusive sewing camp will aim to provide a space for youth with intellectual disabilities and their siblings to learn a new activity together, bond with other sibling pairs, and share experiences.
- [A Day for the Siblings \(SO Mauritius\)](#)
 - Kritish and Francois Miguel are Special Olympics Youth Leaders from Mauritius who will lead a Youth Innovation Project to organize an inclusive recreation and counseling day. On this day, siblings of people with intellectual disabilities will visit a special education school and learn about different types of intellectual disabilities and psychological services, as well as the impact of sport and fitness on people with intellectual disabilities and the community.

Health and Fitness

- [Inclusive Cooking for Health and Inclusion \(SO Venezuela\)](#)
 - Many people find it difficult to be on a balanced and nutritious diet for different reasons. Youth Leaders not only care about their own healthy diet, they also care about others'. Román invited experienced chefs and experts on nutrition and were highly careful about sensitivity of different recipes. As a result, they successfully created an inclusive environment when teaching cooking skills and making healthy and delicious food.
- [Promoting Healthy Lifestyles \(So Cote d'Ivoire\)](#)
 - Personal hygiene is very important to health and wellness. Youth Leaders focused on this matter and specifically addressed female hygiene and health concerns, especially educating young girls and their families.
- [Emotional Accessibility \(SO Vietnam\)](#)
 - Mental health is one important component to measure one's wellness. Youth Leaders are taking lead to open a safe space on campus for those need mental and emotional support using high-tech tools, which will provide easier accessibility to available resources.

Technology

- [Unified Smart Labs \(SO Italy\)](#)
 - Margherita and Desiree plan to create interactive technology labs with various focuses ranging from dance to design to painting. Margherita and Desiree are inspiring the Unified Generation to learn together, grow together, and above all, have fun together.
- [Impact of New Media on Improving Social Attention \(SO China\)](#)
 - Sin and Genmao will lead a cross-Program Youth Innovation Project focused on learning about the school and community life of people with intellectual disabilities. Based on the results of their study, they will create a microfilm to share their



learnings with others. Sin and Genmao believe that in a digital era, a product with more visual content will attract more attention from the public.

Unified Schools

- [Harnessing Teachers and Administrators to Create More Inclusive Schools \(SO Chile\)](#)
 - Olivia will work with student leaders to create a practical approach to foster relationships that are more meaningful and greater understanding about how to create inclusive classrooms and an overall inclusive school environment for all students.
- [Using Water Distribution for Greater Inclusion \(SO Kenya\)](#)
 - Matthew and Kelvin are Special Olympics Youth Leaders from Kenya who will lead a Youth Innovation Project to solve a water sourcing and distribution need in their community. In partnership with existing Unified Schools, Matthew and Kelvin will engage Youth Leaders with and without intellectual disabilities to be the leaders of this solution by creating water sourcing and distribution kiosks.

Unified Sports

- [Inclusive Day Camps \(SO Canada\)](#)
 - Troy is a Special Olympics Youth Leader from British Columbia, Canada, who will lead a Youth Innovation Project to introduce individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families in the Greater Vancouver Area to Special Olympics British Columbia sports and health programs through a series of day camps. In addition to increasing awareness of Special Olympics British Columbia programs and opportunities, Troy believes it is important to research the barriers to accessing Special Olympics programs by speaking directly with individuals and families in his community.
- [Bridging the Gap between Athletes and Events \(SO New Zealand\)](#)
 - In order to bridge this gap, Grace and Jack are working with existing transportation services to make them more accessible to their athletes. The pair also hopes to increase accessibility by creating an app to help track transportation services. By connecting athletes to local events, Grace and Jack are working to make their community truly inclusive.

Women Empowerment

- [Unified Floorball for Female Engagement \(SO Estonia\)](#)
 - Mona Lisa will partner with an existing non-integrated women's floorball league to create a Unified floorball team and host a Unified Sports tournament. Through this project, Mona Lisa will expand the sports opportunities for youth with intellectual disabilities in Estonia.
- [Unified Women's Football \(SO South Africa\)](#)
 - Charl Sean and Eltheo will train four new football teams comprised of female athletes with intellectual disabilities to compete in a Unified recreational tournament in the Western Cape region.