



Maine Youth Power Late Summer Newsletter

August 31st, 2022

As the leaves start turning on red maples, it's time for a review of our summer and what a powerful summer we have had! It began in June with Maine Youth Power taking a well needed 10 day break and then coming back and jumping into Pride season! We attended 6 rural prides across Maine and had about 15 different staff and volunteers cover all of them! Our list grew significantly as we met folx aligned with our vision of Maine in their hometowns. Maine Youth Power knows that our strength to win human dignity, equity and a livable future lives in Maine's villages and small towns and we are excited to share what we have been up to!

This summer we hired a new full time staff member for the first time ever. We hired a Co-Director to join Phoebe in the leadership team! We are delighted to welcome Shukri Abdirahman to our team!



Shukri Abdirahman (she/her) just graduated from University of Maine at Farmington with a degree in Anthropology, International Global Studies and Political Science.

She lives in Lewiston and grew as an organizer and community leader and led Maine's largest Black Lives Matter Protest in 2020. She is an advocate for New Mainers and a voice for social justice, art and community in Maine and we are thrilled that she is bringing grounding in Maine Politics and positive light to Maine Youth Power!

On July 29th, We both spoke in support of NE dairy farm workers in solidarity with Migrant Justice [Shukri speaks here](#) and [Phoebe speaks here](#).

On August 2nd, Maine Youth Power hosted our largest event to date.

We hosted *Youth Ask the Questions* Political Forum, inviting a selection of politicians from Maine to join us and answer questions youth need to know. We crafted 10 questions and had different young Mainers ask each one from many different backgrounds. Our Legislative Manager Jane Dawson describes it:

" The forum was an incredible success. **11 politicians attended from 10 different, primarily rural counties** in Maine. Additionally, there were over **95 young Mainers in attendance**. In each forum young people from Maine Youth Power and organizations got to turn on their videos and share their personal experiences about being a young person. The forum generated the highest level of social media engagement and an attendance rate higher than anything Maine Youth power has previously hosted. It also acted as an opportunity for Maine Youth Power to further develop relationships with candidates and politicians across the state. Through developing this connection Maine Youth Politicians will continue to learn that youth participation is key and having us on their side is a powerful and necessary force. After rigorous hours of organizing with politicians, fellow youth movements, and youth activists from across the state, we are so excited to continue the momentum of the Youth Ask the Questions Political Forum."



Thanks to the deep solidarity and generosity of all our donors major and grassroots, we funded our work strongly this year and built a strong foundation as a youth-led, youth movement heading into the midterms.

One grant to highlight is our acceptance to the Level Up Lab, a 2 year capacity building grant with FCYO. We, as co-directors, will be entering into a cohort of transformation leadership development increasing our effectiveness as a rural youth movement with organizers across the country! We start the program this October.

On August 20th-21st

Maine Youth Power went on a retreat to Belgrade Maine for the weekend with our full time and part time staff! The retreat was amazing. We had five planning sessions and created a timeline for the rest of our year across the dining room wall using sticky notes with all of our different branches of work. We ate yummy food, screen printed t-shirts, and created love note journals for each other. Our fellow Saga led a session on our gender neutral bathroom campaign and everyone collaborated on next steps and where the campaign needs to go. We shared our plans to hire 4 electoral fellows and their roles and responsibilities and Jane led a session discussing the legislative process this winter! We had a session where we dreamed up a budget that included all we could possibly accomplish, and wow we have plans brewing!

Electoral Plan and Hiring

We are currently in the final hiring stages to bring on 4 electoral fellows who will be hosting and managing relational vote parties. Using relational organizing, we plan to turn our friends, neighbors and communities out to vote. Our goal is to turnout 4,500 young people in Maine to vote! We will keep you updated as our plan grows quickly into the fall season.

We are growing fast and thoughtfully expanding into the state and keeping it fun and engaging.

Thank you to all who support us and get excited for the power we are building this fall during the midterm elections!

In Solidarity,



Phoebe Dolan Co-director



Shukri Abdirahman Co-director

