

# YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT

## Schedule

**Tuesday, November 11, 2025**

**8:30 - 9:00am** Check In and Refreshments

**Location: Mercury Meeting Room, Main Building**

*Enjoy coffee, juice, and a light breakfast as you arrive.*

**9:15 - 9:35am** Morning Plenary Session

**Location: Mercury Meeting Room, Main Building**

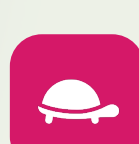
*Welcoming and Opening Remarks by the Museum of Life and Science's President and CEO, Carrie Heinonen and the Youth Climate Summit Teen Advisory Board.*

**9:50am - 10:35am and 10:45am - 11:30am** Workshops



**Climate System Mapping**  
**Presenter: Alison Whitaker, NC State Climate Office**  
**Location: SouthLab 1**

*Through interactive exercises, we'll explore climate drivers, mechanisms, and consequences. Ignite your passion and discover the power within you to create lasting change.*



**A Coastal Scenario: Sustainable Energy & Sea Turtles**  
**Presenter: Jennifer Wigen and Paul Hillbrand, Bald Head Island Conservancy**  
**Location: SouthLab 2**

*Dive into a real-world coastal dilemma by role-playing stakeholders who must balance the economic benefits of offshore wind energy with the critical need to protect nesting sea turtle populations.*



**Urban Heat Islands**  
**Presenter: Imani Vincent, Museum of Life and Science**  
**Location: SouthLab 3**

*Learn about the science of extreme heat, urban heat islands, and ways to stay cool in a warming world through an interactive role-playing game.*



**Heatwave Heroes: Protecting the Health of our Families and Communities**  
**Presenter: Valerie K. Sabol Ph.D., MBA, ACNP, GNP**  
**Location: SouthLab 4**

*Explore the critical health impacts of extreme heat in rural communities and develop a concrete, youth-driven action plan to prepare families and communities for future heatwaves.*

**11:30am - 11:40am** Group Photo on Southside Campus

**11:30am - 1:00pm** Lunch and Eco Fair

• **Lunch**

**Location: Mercury Meeting Room**

*Enjoy a buffet style lunch with gluten-free and dairy-free options.*

• **Eco Fair**

**Location: South Side Campus**

*Engage with climate researchers, educators, activists, and learn how you can get involved.*

**1:10 - 1:55pm** Climate Action Planning

**Presenter: Northern High School Environmental Club and Sustainable Schools Coalition**

**Location: Mercury Meeting Room, Main Building**

*Hear an inspiring case study of successful youth climate action, then shift from learning to doing as you break out into small working groups to refine and finalize the next steps for your team's community climate plan.*

**2:00 - 3:00pm** Climate Action Now

**Location: Mercury Meeting Room, Main Building**

*Meet in the Mercury Meeting Room before heading out around the museum's campus to engage with a hands-on climate action project:*

- **Invasive Species Removal** - Work with the New Hope Bird Alliance and Museum's Outdoor Landscape Team to physically remove invasive species, restoring the local ecosystem's health and climate resilience.
- **Native Plant Installation** - Work with horticulturist Bobbi Jo Holmes to install native plants that will help the ecosystem maintain a healthy, long-lived carbon stock both above and below ground.
- **iNaturalist BioBlitz** - Join environmental educator Kati Henderson of Sarah P. Duke Gardens to use iNaturalist for community science, documenting the flora and fauna of the Museum's outdoor landscape.
- **Bull City Boomerang Bag** - Make and donate Bull City Boomerang Bags, contributing to waste reduction by transforming fabric scraps into reusable shopping totes for the community.
- **Mutual Aid for Food Security** - Explore how mutual aid strengthens community food security against climate change impacts, then engage in a hands-on project to prepare food for a local community fridge to feed our neighbors.
- **Vermicompost** - Learn the science of vermicomposting by building a working worm bin to divert food scraps from landfills and produce nutrient-rich fertilizer for your classroom garden, directly contributing to waste reduction and soil health.

**3:00 - 3:30pm** Refreshment Break

**Location: Mercury Meeting Room, Main Building**

*Take a breather and network with other summiters while you enjoy light refreshments.*

**3:30 - 4:00pm** Keynote Address



**Presenter: Shiva Rajbhandari**  
**Location: Mercury Meeting Room, Main Building**

*Shiva Rajbhandari is a 21-year-old climate justice organizer from Boise, Idaho. In high school, he led a campaign to create a climate action plan for his school district. Seeing the disregard district leaders had for youth voices led him to run for office when he turned 18, becoming the first student to serve on a school board in Idaho. After high school, Shiva joined Sunrise Movement's Green New Deal for Schools campaign and trained hundreds of young people across the country to organize their communities. He is currently a student at UNC-Chapel Hill researching resistance to authoritarianism and the role of public policy in social movements.*

**4:00 - 4:30pm** CAP Shareout and Closing Address

**Location: Mercury Meeting Room, Main Building**

*Share your team's Climate Action Plan, next steps, and takeaways from the Summit.*

## Campus Map



### Main Building

Check In  
Morning Plenary Session  
Lunch  
Climate Action Planning  
Climate Action Now  
Keynote Address  
Shareout  
Closing Address

### Southside

Eco Fair

### SouthLab 1

Climate System Mapping

### SouthLab 3

Urban Heat Islands

### SouthLab 2

A Coastal Scenario:  
Sustainable Energy &  
Sea Turtles

### SouthLab 4

Heatwave Heroes:  
Protecting the Health  
of our Families and  
Communities

## Sponsors

**Durham Academy**

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