YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT

MUSEUM of LIFE + SCIENCE

Schedule

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

8:30 – 9 am Check In and Refreshments

Location: Mercury Meeting Room, Main Building
Enjoy coffee, juice, and a light breakfast as you arrive. Check out our new climate and sustainability exhibit, **From Here On: Shaping Our Future**, *before the Museum opens.*

9 – 9:35 am Morning Plenary Session

Location: Mercury Meeting Room, Main Building
Presentation by the Youth Climate Summit's Teen Advisory Board, followed by the Climate Creatures icebreaker activity. Welcoming and Opening Remarks by the Museum of Life and Science's President and CEO, Carrie Heinonen, City of Durham Mayor, Leonardo Williams, and the Youth Climate Summit Teen Advisory Board.

9:50 – 10:30 am and 10:40 – 11:30 am Workshops

Climate 101 – System Mapping
Presenter: Alison Whitaker and Kaitlin Karaffa, 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.

Exploring Nature-Based Solutions for Sustainable Water Systems
Presenter: Christy Perrin, Water Resources Research Institute
Location: SouthLab 2

In this workshop, you'll learn how nature-based solutions can improve how we manage stormwater in urban areas by exploring real-life examples at the Museum of Life and Science.

Local Lobbying 101
Presenter: Ahana Srivastava, Duke Climate Coalition, and Angela Zhao
Location: SouthLab 3

This workshop introduces attendees to the importance of lobbying in NC and key strategies for success. Students will apply their new skills in a fun, interactive practice!

Race Against the Heat
Presenter: Valerie K. Sabol Ph.D and Jennifer Lawson M.D., Duke University School of Medicine
Location: SouthLab 4

In this fast-paced, team-based challenge, students race against the clock to help a North Carolina family safely navigate an unfolding heatwave.

Mentor Networking Hour
Presenter: Ashton Merck, Museum of Life and Science
Location: Creekside

In this informal conversation, you'll have a chance to introduce yourself and get to know other mentors, ask questions about the Summit, and most importantly, finish your coffee.

Mentor Track: We recommend that all mentors attend the *Mentor Networking Hour* for Workshop Block 1. We recommend that new mentors should attend *Climate 101 – System Mapping* for Workshop Block 2.

11:30 – 11:40 am Group Photo on Southside Campus

11:30 am – 1:00 pm 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 – 2:10 pm Action Focused Workshops

Location: Mercury Meeting Room
These workshops focus on tangible steps for your community or school.

- ***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.*
- ***Spider Walk With NC Environmental Justice Network*** *- Go on a "spider walk" with the North Carolina Environmental Justice Network to learn about community science and air quality.*
- ***Using Your Influence to Fight Climate Change:*** *Map your networks, identify leverage points, and plan campaigns to drive institutional climate action. Facilitated by Shiva Rajbhandari.*
- ***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.*

Mentor Track

Climate Action Training *– Mentors can choose to join any action-focused workshop, but are encouraged to attend our Mentor Training to support them for Climate Action Planning with their teens.*

2:10 – 2:25 pm Snack and Refreshment Break

2:25 – 3:30 pm Climate Action Planning

Learn about ongoing climate issues and work with your team to develop your Climate Action Plan for your community, school, or local organization. One member of your team will share you Climate Action Plan with all your fellow summiteers at the Youth Climate Summit.

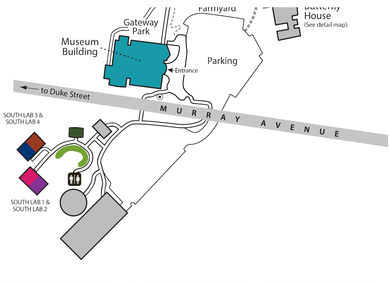
3:30 – 4:00 pm Keynote Address

Presenter: ***Dawn Bland***
Location: Mercury Meeting Room, Main Building
Dawn Bland is a grassroots organizer who founded Bull City Shares, a vibrant "alternate economy" in Durham designed to dismantle traditional consumerism through community-led resource sharing.

4:00 – 4:30 pm 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 101 – System Mapping

SouthLab 3
Local Lobbying 101

SouthLab 2
Exploring Nature-Based Solutions for Sustainable Water Systems

SouthLab 4
Race Against the Heat

Creekside
Mentor Networking Hour