

## *Statements from youth on the planning team for the upcoming Edina Youth Climate Summit*

I believe that the youth summit is a fantastic way to unite and come together as a community to combat the climate issue. It is a perfect representation of how much youth want to work together and make a change. Everyone deserves to experience the beauty of the Earth and it is up to us, the youth and the leaders in our community to take a stand and give that opportunity to the future generation.

Johanna Kim- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

I think that the youth summit is a fantastic event for youth to find their voice to speak up about the environment and to amplify their voice by joining it with many other like minded people, whether it be youth or adults. I am specifically running a table on environmental careers, so I want to show the youth that you be passionate about the environment for a living.

Yuanxi Kuang- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

The youth summit is a wonderful opportunity for the youth of our generation to become more knowledgeable and equipped to be good stewards of the Earth. I hope we are able inspire at least one person to make some change in their life no matter how big or small. Because the future of our planet depends on having empowered youth ready to take action in their lives!

Emma Hutson- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Chances are, people won't do good for the Earth, our home, unless they know what is good for it and what endangers it. The Youth Summit is just one way people can be informed in such matters and start making a difference in the future of our planet. However, what makes the Youth Summit so important is the very fact that it is calling for the youth. These are the people who can make the most use of the knowledge from the summit by applying what they learned for the many, many years they have left in their lives. It is always the next generation that has control of the future, so that next generation needs to be prepared to take on the challenges that older generations were unable to finish solving.

Jason Phadnis- 12 grade

The youth summit is important to me because I believe that it is essential for youth to get involved in climate action at the local and state levels, especially considering our current national response to environmental issues. This summit provides an opportunity for young people in Edina to learn why environmental issues matter to all of us and get tips on specific ways to engage in saving our collective future. I care about my community and I care about our future, and I'm inspired by knowing that Edina youth can be leaders in creating change.

Rozy Eastnaugh- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

With the recent turn of events within the political landscape of our country, essential steps that we have taken have now been pushed back. As a member of the youth demographic, I will be affected by these decisions far more than the people making them. It is more important than ever for me, and for my generation, to take steps that will help ensure our own safety. This climate summit is one of those steps, and can also act as a catalyst for others who also want to get involved in taking climate action.

*Avery Greene- 9<sup>th</sup> grade*

I believe the Youth Summit is extremely important because it is the first of its kind being hosted at Edina High School and it is organized and led by students. It is amazing that Mayor Hovland, city council members, school board members, community members, and students are all coming together at this event to take a stand against climate change and show how much we care and want to create change in our community.

*Gauri Madhok- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade*