

Alia Ross
Winooski School District
10th grade

Good Morning, My name is Alia Ross and I am currently a sophomore at Winooski High School. I am involved in afterschool because it gives me something educational and fun to do. I have done a variety of afterschool activities such as writing and poetry, JiuJitsu, MedTrek and some summer programs in literacy, art and math. These classes have helped me become a better writer and have given me a broader knowledge of medical careers. They also exposed me to some new skills such as Photography and given me the chance to practice my writing, art, and math skills. Without afterschool I would not have anywhere to go or anything to do while I waited for a ride home.

I have been a part of Afterschool and Summer Learning Day, the Youth Rights Summit and the Youth Council for the past two years. I decided to participate in the Youth Rights Summit because I thought it was a good opportunity for me to get more involved in my community. I helped write the Youth Declaration of Rights. The right that was most important to me was the right to an Education, specifically equal opportunities and experiences in arts education before, during and after school. This year I traveled to Lake Morey to work on the application process for the Youth4Youth grant. I also worked on and submitted a Youth4Youth grant because I still want and need additional safe places to be afterschool and want other students to have that same opportunity.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts with you.