



NATIONAL PAL HOSTS 2020 NPAL VIRTUAL YOUTH SUMMIT

Engaging youth in inspirational and informational discussion

On August 18, 2020, the National Police Athletic/Activities Leagues Inc. (NPAL) began the first of a national three-day Virtual Youth Summit. Due to COVID, NPAL had to think outside the box and hold its annual Youth Mentoring Summit virtually this year. Normally, NPAL and its Chapters would gather in Potomac, Maryland for 4 days of leadership and learning experiences, however, the excitement was not lost. NPAL adapted to connect virtually with youth from all across the country for 3 days of exciting, meaningful, and engaging sessions. Upwards of 150 attendees from across our 2020 Mentor Grantee Chapters anxiously logged in each day to connect with our innovative and engaging speakers.

To highlight a few standout moments from our Virtual Youth Summit, although there were many, our amazing partners at Microsoft Teams lead our youth to learn coding by brainstorming creative ideas and designing their own app. Richard Taylor Jr., founder of TaylorMade Empowerment and self-published author encouraged our youth to recognize and deal with their emotions in a healthy way. Richard presented a challenge to our youth that sometimes “your presence is a present,” and to find ways to give back to others, as well as, dealing with mental health in a positive manner. Youth discovered experiences on interviewing and social media safety from both Ohavia Phillips, social media influencer, and Claudine Malone, Director of Programming for the Beau Biden Foundation. Officer Anthony (AJ) Johnson, famously known on Instagram as OHNOITSDAPOPO, shared life lessons from his mentor and the importance of finding your value and purpose in life. To get our youth up and moving they were treated to the musical sounds of Grammy-nominated artist SaulPaul. Day 3 wrapped up the 2020 NPAL Virtual Youth Summit with Dr. Kenston Griffin’s powerful and encouraging message to our youth and mentors that they are the DIFFERENCE that makes the DIFFERENCE in this world. In closing NPAL’s CEO, Jeff Hood commended our youth and mentors for staying positive during this trying time.

Our youth and mentors left the three-day summit inspired, encouraged, and ready to face the year ahead. Lives were truly impacted and changed!

“I liked listening to all of the speakers talk so passionately about their topics. I also liked how they were all able to inspire me,” stated one PAL kid.

“I think NPAL and guest speakers did a phenomenal job given the fact that it was the first virtual summit. There was never a dull moment and it was very inspiring for youth and their mentors watching. Hands down!” stated a PAL mentor.

National PAL and its chapters missed being able to meet in person, however in the words of Jeff Hood, *“we will make lemonade from lemons, and hope to be back together next year.*

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About The National Association of Police Athletics/Activities League, Inc. (National PAL)

National PAL exists to prevent juvenile crime and violence by providing civic, athletic, recreational, mentoring, and educational opportunities and resources to all National PAL Member Chapters. National PAL builds bridges between kids, cops, and the community, fostering a positive environment across the country. As a membership organization, National PAL provides local Chapters with training, resources, and opportunities to create a new program to improve upon and enhance the quality of existing programs and to increase opportunities in their community.