

YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

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“It can feel really rewarding and uplifting when you accept your disability.”

What is your Disability?

I have autism.

What grade are you in?

I am starting 12th grade.

What are some of your hobbies?

I am in flag corps and I like to swim, read, listen to music, crochet, and hang out with my dog and cat.

What are your career goals?

My career goal is to go to college for either psychology or Autism Behavioral Studies.

Why did you join the Student Stakeholder Workgroup (SSW) and how has it helped you?

I joined the Student Stakeholder Workgroup so that I could advocate for others. Through the SSW, I learned about the SC Youth Leadership Forum and attended as a delegate in July 2025. I also have had the opportunity to present to the SCPP Implementation Council and share SSW recommendations for improving disability outcomes from the youth disability perspective. Both of these experiences have helped me develop my leadership abilities.

What is something you wish people understood about your disability?

I wish people understood that sometimes I need more support than I do at other times. This doesn't mean I can't do things or do good work. I just need different supports at different times depending on how my autism is affecting me.

What does disability pride mean to you and why is it important?

Disability pride to me means owning your disability as a part of who you are. It's important because it can feel really rewarding and uplifting when you accept your disability.

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