



2016–2017 Member Biographies



FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council was formed in 2012 to bring together youth leaders from across the country who are interested and engaged in advocating preparedness. There are 15 members, including two Co-Chairs. Members are selected based on their dedication to public service, their efforts in making a difference in their communities, and their potential to expand their impact as national advocates for preparedness.

The Youth Preparedness Council offers an opportunity for youth leaders to serve on a distinguished national council. During their two-year term, members complete local- and national-level projects and share their opinions and experiences regarding youth disaster preparedness with the leadership of FEMA and national youth preparedness organizations.

These profile pages provide an overview of the Council members' preparedness backgrounds, their work on current and completed projects, and any publicity they have received.



Kiahna Lee Espia

Council Co-chair
FEMA Region IX (Guam)

Kiahna is the founder and President of the Harvest Christian Academy (HCA) CERT Club, an Affirmer of the National Strategy for Youth Preparedness Education. Through HCA CERT, she has partnered with Guam's first responder community and several service organizations, including the Mayor's Council of Guam, Guam Ministerial Association, and Archdiocese of Hagatna. Kiahna also works closely with the Guam Homeland Security Office of Civil Defense and Department of Education. The Guam Homeland Security Office of Civil Defense officially appointed her as the island's Volunteer Program Coordinator.

Kiahna developed the Guam Youth Preparedness Program to unify Guam's youth organizations and incorporate disaster preparedness projects into Guam's service learning requirement. Defined as a teaching and learning approach, service learning integrates service into the community with academic study to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. She also established the Guam Youth Preparedness Coalition and the "Youth Get Ready, Guam! Council.

On September 3, 2016, Kiahna held her third community-wide summit—the 2016 Guam Volunteers, Youth Preparedness and Leadership Summit—to identify principles for Guam's Youth Preparedness Program and ways to integrate preparedness activities into service learning. Attendees included youth from local schools, faith-based organizations, and sports organizations; adult guardians and advisers; youth nonprofit organizations; and first responders. She planned, coordinated, and conducted the first Guam Volunteers, Youth Preparedness and Leadership Summit in August 2015, which had nearly 650 participants and was featured in [FEMA's Children and Disasters October 2015 Newsletter](#) and on the [America's PrepareAthon!](#) website.

As a follow-on to the Guam Volunteers, Youth Preparedness and Leadership Summit, Kiahna developed the Service Learning, and Youth and Community Preparedness Summit. Held January 21-23, 2016, the summit brought together representatives from FEMA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), American Red Cross, Salvation Army, and local and territorial government agencies including fire and law enforcement to promote the availability of emergency preparedness service learning projects. The summit kicked off with a two-day event for educators and community partners to learn about service learning project design and management. When local students arrived on January 23, they discovered resources for their service learning projects and developed emergency plans for a variety of



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hazards, including earthquakes, hurricanes, and tsunamis. This event was promoted in [FEMA's Children and Disasters March 2016 Newsletter](#).

In April 2017, Kiahna is hoping to conduct the 2017 Youth Preparedness Fair to showcase service learning best practices and youth preparedness projects from Guam's middle and high schools, organizations, and the community.

Kiahna has also organized several successful public outreach events. For example, on September 26, 2015, at the Agana Shopping Center in Hagatna, Guam, she led a [National Preparedness Month Grand Finale](#), which reached approximately 1,000 people.

Current Projects: Project in a Box and 2017 Guam Service Learning, and Youth and Community Preparedness Summit

Description: In coordination with The Corporation for National and Community Service and fellow year two members, Kiahna is creating a scale-able disaster preparedness project kit.

Goals:

- Create a resource that people unfamiliar with disaster preparedness can easily replicate to build their own emergency preparedness projects

Previous and Ongoing Projects:

- Establishing the Guam Youth Preparedness Coalition and the Youth *Get Ready, Guam!* Council
- Developed and currently managing the Guam Youth Preparedness Program
- Organized the 2015 and 2016 Guam Volunteers, Youth Preparedness and Leadership Summit and the 2016 Service Learning, and Youth and Community Preparedness Summit

Publicity:

- FEMA Announces 2016 Youth Preparedness Council Members: www.fema.gov/news-release/2016/05/17/fema-announces-2016-youth-preparedness-council-members
- Guam Youth Summit Strengthens Plans For Preparedness Program: <http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSFEMA/bulletins/11e8abf?reqfrom=share>
- Guam Youth Summit Empowers the Next Generation of Preparedness Champions: <https://community.fema.gov/story/guam-youth-summit-empowers-the-next-generation-of-preparedness-champions>
- Readyng Guam's High School Students for Potential Hazards: <http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSFEMA/bulletins/137e471?reqfrom=share>
- Apply for FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council! A Message from Kiahna in Guam: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMFM7ncq9LY>

To reach Kiahna, please contact her FEMA Region IX mentor Randy Brawley at Randy.Brawley@fema.dhs.gov.



Divakar Saini

Council Co-chair
FEMA Region IX (California)

Divakar's motto is "E-prep is Essential," and his impressive level of engagement with preparedness efforts in his community shows that he truly lives that motto. Divakar shares preparedness information through a disaster preparedness club at his school, social media, his local newspaper, and public speaking events.

For the April 2016 America's PrepareAthon!, Divakar hosted a preparedness poster contest for local elementary and middle school students in collaboration with the City of Palo Alto. His work included promoting the contest, judging and selecting the winners, identifying prizes, preparing certificates, and coordinating an award ceremony. The winning posters are posted on [Facebook](#) and on display at City Hall. The contest was featured in [FEMA's Children and Disasters June 2016 Newsletter](#).

Divakar has also collaborated with his local emergency management agency to facilitate hour-long classes for elementary school students throughout the year. He developed all of the lessons and handouts for the program, which he calls "Master of Disaster."

Divakar is a trained member of his city's Block Preparedness Coordinator (BPC) program and participates in the program's quarterly drills. In collaboration with adult BPCs, Divakar organized a project for members of his school's emergency preparedness club to paint house numbers on sidewalks. Additionally, to help make disaster preparedness and response more efficient and widespread, Divakar created a smartphone app that allows BPCs and CERT volunteers to better coordinate with city officials by sharing and prioritizing incident reports.

Current Project: Project in a Box

Description: In coordination with The Corporation for National and Community Service and fellow year two members, Divakar is creating a scale-able disaster preparedness project kit.

Goals:

- Create a resource that people unfamiliar with disaster preparedness can easily replicate to build their own emergency preparedness projects



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Previous and Ongoing Projects:

- Hosted a preparedness poster contest for elementary and middle school students in Palo Alto, CA
- Developed an emergency response smartphone app for local volunteers

Publicity:

- FEMA Announces 2016 Youth Preparedness Council Members: www.fema.gov/news-release/2016/05/17/fema-announces-2016-youth-preparedness-council-members
- Palo Alto Students Create Preparedness Posters: https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1465595814520-7fb0c9bfaefe988386dec5cb2a55205f/June_2016_Children_and_Disasters_Newsletter_508.pdf
- Apply for FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council! A Message from Divakar in Palo Alto, CA: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCMgWQDVQwM>
- Gunn High School student Saini promotes National Preparedness Month: www.paloaltoonline.com/news/2015/09/24/gunn-high-school-student-saini-promotes-national-preparedness-month

To reach Divakar, please contact his FEMA Region IX mentor Randy Brawley at Randy.Brawley@fema.dhs.gov.



Kristen Lavoie

FEMA Region I (New Hampshire)
Year 1

Kristen has participated in numerous extracurricular activities, including in the National Charity League (Southern New Hampshire Chapter) and in Model UN. Through the National Charity League, for which she has held multiple leadership positions, including historian, vice president, and president, Kristen has volunteered with the local soup kitchen, for which she is developing a program to benefit its clients as her senior project. She also gained event planning experience from the charity league, having helped organize events for 200 people. From her Model UN experience, Kristen learned she is comfortable speaking in large groups and hopes to have a career that includes public speaking.

Current Project: Helping New Hampshire's Homeless Prepare

Description: Kristen is partnering with local organizations to provide emergency preparedness information and materials to the homeless community in southern New Hampshire through outreach at the local soup kitchen.

Goals:

- To educate the homeless community of Southern New Hampshire about emergency preparedness

Publicity:

- FEMA Announces 2016 Youth Preparedness Council Members: www.fema.gov/news-release/2016/05/17/fema-announces-2016-youth-preparedness-council-members

To reach Kristen, please contact her Region I mentor Donald Vincent at Donald.Vincent@fema.dhs.gov.



Ahjeetha Shankar

FEMA Region I (Connecticut)
Year 1

Ahjeetha is the vice president of her HOSA-Future Health Professionals club, for which she promotes CPR and first aid education. She is also a former Odyssey of the Mind participant and current coach, and her team has won numerous tournaments. Ahjeetha is a straight A student; as a freshman, she received the top academic achievement award in Foundations in Health, Science, and Technology, a class made up of students in grades 9–12. Ahjeetha also has extensive volunteer experience, including as a Red Cross volunteer, which resulted in her receiving the President’s Volunteer Service Award: Gold Level. Her interest in preparedness grew after her family in Chennai, India, experienced severe flooding.

Current Project: Community Teen CPR and First Aid Training

Description: Ahjeetha is preparing local teens with CPR and First Aid training in collaboration with The Red Cross to foster a more resilient community where emergency preparedness is part of everyday life.

Goals:

- Provide CPR and First Aid training to teens in the community
- Distribute heat safety brochures throughout the community

Publicity:

- FEMA Announces 2016 Youth Preparedness Council Members: www.fema.gov/news-release/2016/05/17/fema-announces-2016-youth-preparedness-council-members

To reach Ahjeetha, please contact her Region I mentor Donald Vincent at Donald.Vincent@fema.dhs.gov.



Aahna Ghosh
FEMA Region II (New Jersey)
Year 1

Aahna serves as class secretary and is involved in multiple extracurricular activities, which won her the class superlative of PTA Best All-Around Student Award. She enjoys serving her community by volunteering at a local nursing home and working at a childcare facility. In both of these roles, Aahna promotes preparedness. Aahna sees the Youth Preparedness Council as a great opportunity to learn more about preparedness and share that message with her school and volunteer networks.

Current Project: Prepare Parsippany

Description: Aahna is preparing the students, administrators, and community of Parsippany Troy-Hills School District on how to handle an emergency active shooter situation.

Goals:

- Have students, teachers, and community citizens carry Active Shooter Procedure cards
- Design an evacuation plan/have them practice more regularly
- Have emergency kits located in each classroom
- Hold an assembly so students within the district are aware of the precautions for an active shooter situation
- Present preparedness skills to young children and the elderly

Publicity:

- FEMA Announces 2016 Youth Preparedness Council Members: www.fema.gov/news-release/2016/05/17/fema-announces-2016-youth-preparedness-council-members

To reach Aahna, please contact her Region II mentor Deborah Costa at Deborah.Costa@fema.dhs.gov.



Sam Kleinberg
FEMA Region II (New Jersey)
Year 1

Sam has grown up knowing the importance of emergency preparedness and promotes family communications plans and pet safety plans. He is certified in first aid, in CPR, and as a lifeguard. For the past few years, Sam has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, rebuilding homes that were destroyed in Hurricane Sandy. In 2015, he traveled to New Orleans with Mitzvah Corp to help with Katrina recovery. He is interested in pursuing a career in psychology and forensics, and his goal is to work with a national intelligence organization.

Current Project: New Jersey Youth Preparedness

Description: Sam will introduce preparedness information to elementary school students through fun activities at his community youth center.

Goals:

- Teach elementary school students basic preparedness skills
- Show young children what they should have in their 'go' bags
- Help children create an emergency plan for their home
- Spread preparedness awareness

Publicity:

- FEMA Announces 2016 Youth Preparedness Council Members: www.fema.gov/news-release/2016/05/17/fema-announces-2016-youth-preparedness-council-members

To reach Sam, please contact his Region II mentor Mark Strohoefer at Mark.Strohoefer@fema.dhs.gov.



Angelo DeGraff

FEMA Region III (Maryland)
Year 2

Angelo launched a disaster preparedness club at his school. Working with community first responders and federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Corporation for National and Community Service, Angelo has engaged more than 30 students in various preparedness efforts. The club was featured in [FEMA's Children and Disasters January 2016 Newsletter](#). Angelo is certified as a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) SKYWARN weather spotter and is a trained member of the Berwyn Heights, MD Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Angelo graduated from 8th grade this past June where he received several awards including the Principal's Award, Academic Excellence Award for a 4.0 GPA, the Citizenship Award, 3 Character Counts Awards, and a medal for the National Junior Honor Society. Angelo is the recipient of the Moreau Scholarship, a 4-year academic scholarship recognizing the academic achievements of the top student applying to attend Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, MD.

Current Project: Project in a Box

Description: In coordination with The Corporation for National and Community Service, year two members are collaborating to create a scale-able disaster preparedness project kit, which people unfamiliar with disaster preparedness can replicate to build their own emergency preparedness projects.

Goals:

- Create a resource that people unfamiliar with disaster preparedness can easily replicate to build their own emergency preparedness projects

Previous and Ongoing Projects:

- Launched an after school disaster preparedness club
- Presented on disaster preparedness at school assemblies



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Publicity:

- FEMA Announces 2016 Youth Preparedness Council Members: www.fema.gov/news-release/2016/05/17/fema-announces-2016-youth-preparedness-council-members
- Disaster Prep Club Gets Focused on Fire Safety: https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1452106497809-3ad2ae575c65b2f971427f40965cb5ea/January_Children_and_Disasters_Newsletter_508.pdf

To reach Angelo, please contact his Region III mentor Amanda Hancher at Amanda.Hancher@fema.dhs.gov.



David Bedard
FEMA Region III (Virginia)
Year 1

David, an Eagle Scout, spent 6 months preparing and executing a full-scale exercise at Chippenham Hospital that simulated a mass casualty event. He worked with community partners, including local fire, emergency medical service, and police departments to complete the drill, and he led the after-action report for the hospital exercise. He has had experience leading Emergency Preparedness classes and has been involved in multiple Search and Rescue training operations. David describes himself as being comfortable speaking to and working with adults, and he is eager to use this experience and apply it to the Youth Preparedness Council.

Current Project: Joint Community Full Scale Exercise

Description: David is engaging families; the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT); and private sector, emergency response, and volunteer organizations in a simulated exercise to practice emergency actions for severe storms and flooding.

Goals:

- Have 75–80% of the community participate in the exercise
- Have VDOT, all area schools, emergency medical services, and government buildings participate in the exercise
- Educate families so they know about, understand, and use Family-Action-Plans during the exercise

Publicity:

- FEMA Announces 2016 Youth Preparedness Council Members: www.fema.gov/news-release/2016/05/17/fema-announces-2016-youth-preparedness-council-members
- Virginia Student Will Represent Four States and D.C. at National Council in July: <http://emupdate.tumblr.com/post/146319379425>

To reach David, please contact his Region III mentor Amanda Hancher at Amanda.Hancher@fema.dhs.gov.



Preston Buszka
FEMA Region V (Michigan)
Year 1

Preston is on the Farmington & Farmington Hills Mayor's Youth Council and is a liaison to the Farmington & Farmington Hills Emergency Preparedness Commission. He is also SKYWARN certified and has some CERT training. Preston has a passion for robotics and safety, and is the team safety captain for his FIRST® Robotics Team, the Hackbots, out of his high school. He created and maintains the team's safety program, including an extensive manual on preventing injuries. He has also conducted safety outreach through the team.

Current Project: Junior/Senior Preparedness

Description: Preston is preparing young students, seniors, families, and caregivers for disasters and emergencies through presentations at local elementary schools and community centers

Goals:

- Recruit community members to attend the presentations
- Encourage participants to take preparedness actions
- Distribute preparedness materials to the community

Publicity:

- FEMA Announces 2016 Youth Preparedness Council Members: www.fema.gov/news-release/2016/05/17/fema-announces-2016-youth-preparedness-council-members
- Farmington Hills teen picked for FEMA Youth Council: www.hometownlife.com/story/news/local/farmington/2016/06/11/farmington-hills-teen-tabbed-fema/85679384/
- Farmington Hills Teen Chosen for FEMA Youth Council: <http://patch.com/michigan/farmington-mi/farmington-hills-teen-chosen-fema-youth-council>

To reach Preston, please contact his Region V mentor Kimberly Hayward at Kimberly.Hayward@fema.dhs.gov.



Chandler Villa
FEMA Region VI (Texas)
Year 1

Chandler is a member of her high school CERT and is enrolled in CERT basic training, through which she was deployed to Marlin, TX, during a water crisis. She also helped her CERT team coordinate a community health fair. In addition to her CERT activities, Chandler is a leader in her school's student activities and government organization. Being from a rural community, Chandler hopes to bring that perspective to youth preparedness.

Current Project: Help the Helpless

Description: Chandler will educate young children and pet and livestock owners on what to do in emergency situations through distributing materials and conducting a program at local elementary schools.

Goals:

- Reach out to as many schools as possible
- Distribute information as thoroughly as possible
- Inform animal owners and children of basic preparedness in emergencies
- Conduct surveys to secure project feedback

Publicity:

- FEMA Announces 2016 Youth Preparedness Council Members: www.fema.gov/news-release/2016/05/17/fema-announces-2016-youth-preparedness-council-members
- Mart ISD Student is Lone Texan Selected for National Youth Preparedness Council: <https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2016/05/24/mart-isd-student-lone-texan-selected-national-youth-preparedness-council>
- Mart student to represent Texas, region at Washington, DC FEMA council: www.wacotrib.com/news/education/mart-student-to-represent-texas-region-at-washington-dc-fema/article_007ad4a5-2b4b-53f5-b646-8ccd82a0cd52.html?mode=iq
- Local News Interview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9xMUAYQnQA&feature=youtu.b>

To reach Chandler, please contact her Region VI mentor Bill Bischof at Bill.Bischof@fema.dhs.gov.



James Hirsch

FEMA Region VII (Missouri)
Year 1

As the son of a National Weather Service meteorologist, James is a lifelong consumer of preparedness messaging. He enjoys public speaking, has performed in community theater, has worked at an amusement park, and has lettered in high school debate for the past 2 years. James has participated in numerous public speaking and outreach events, including SKYWARN Storm Spotter and HAM radio meetings. James, who is also interested in writing, won a local Veterans of Foreign Wars youth essay contest. He is excited to work with other youth to help create a more preparedness-minded community.

Current Project: Elementary School Preparedness

Description: James is educating elementary school students about hazards in the community and how to prepare

Goals:

- Assess student knowledge of preparedness
- Develop educational materials
- Teach students about preparedness and community hazards
- Assess student knowledge after the course

Publicity:

- FEMA Announces 2016 Youth Preparedness Council Members: www.fema.gov/news-release/2016/05/17/fema-announces-2016-youth-preparedness-council-members
- Interview with Holy Family Parish (not live yet)

To reach James, please contact his Region VII mentor Thomas Morgan at Thomas.Morgan5@fema.dhs.gov.



Jerome Dinakar
FEMA Region VIII (Colorado)
Year 1

Jerome serves his community through a variety of extracurricular activities, including as a junior Boulder Amateur Radio Club (BARC) operator, student government member, debate team member, Children’s Museum volunteer, Avista Adventist Hospital volunteer, and Westminster Public Library Teen Advisory Board member. Through BARC, Jerome participates in activities to help prepare his community for disasters, including setting up antennas and radios for emergency situations. Jerome’s interest in emergency preparedness increased after his family in India was forced to relocate due to massive flooding in 2015.

Current Project: Blizzard Bag

Description: Jerome is equipping teens with the skills and tools necessary to survive in blizzard conditions, including how to create a disaster supply kit for their car—or Blizzard Bag—in the event that they get stuck in a storm.

Goals:

- Partner with 2–3 driving schools to teach winter safety, blizzard bags, and what items teens should keep in their car
- Develop a presentation for driving schools to educate student drivers on winter safety
- Have students Instagram their blizzard bag

Publicity:

- FEMA Announces 2016 Youth Preparedness Council Members: www.fema.gov/news-release/2016/05/17/fema-announces-2016-youth-preparedness-council-members

To reach Jerome, please contact his Region VIII mentor Ronnie Warren at Ronnie.Warren@fema.dhs.gov.



Alexander Sun

FEMA Region VIII (Utah)
Year 1

Alex is the co-founder and chair of the Youth Council for Envision Utah, a statewide nonprofit that encourages residents to think about important issues regarding Utah's future, including disaster resilience. His work for Envision Utah has included public speaking (in front of 600+ people), helping other students organize youth groups and activities at their own schools, encouraging students and parents to take an online survey (more than 17,000 participants took the survey through the Youth Council's efforts), and designing an award-winning science fair project that evaluated strategies for motivating high school students to take action. Alex also helped his grandparents plan and run a neighborhood emergency preparedness fair that focused on wildfires and earthquakes. He is currently taking CERT training. Alex, who speaks fluent Mandarin, spent two years living in China, not long before the 2008 Sichuan earthquake, which increased his interest in preparedness.

Current Project: Assessing the Structural Integrity of Public School Buildings Along the Wasatch Front

Description: Alex is training area students how to assess a building's structural integrity and how to determine the likelihood of a collapse in the event of a 7.0 magnitude earthquake.

Goals:

- Assess the structural integrity of 10 public school buildings along the Wasatch front
- Teach high school students how to visually assess the structural integrity of buildings
- Inform school administrators of the school's structural integrity following the assessment

Publicity:

- FEMA Announces 2016 Youth Preparedness Council Members: www.fema.gov/news-release/2016/05/17/fema-announces-2016-youth-preparedness-council-members

To reach Alex, please contact his Region VIII mentor Ronnie Warren at Ronnie.Warren@fema.dhs.gov.



Hailey Starr

FEMA Region X (Washington)
Year 2

Hailey is dedicated to improving emergency preparedness on the reservation where she lives. She is a very active member of the Muckleshoot Teen CERT, with which she created an active shooter training video and assembled emergency backpacks for the elders in her community. In an [August 2015 FEMA blog post](#), Hailey said her interest in emergency management and preparedness began when she joined the Muckleshoot Teen CERT. [FEMA's November 2015 Children and Disasters Newsletter](#) promoted Hailey's involvement with the National Congress of American Indians' annual conference on a panel discussing emergency management with other native youth. On April 28, 2016, Hailey organized a successful Native Youth Emergency Preparedness Fair at her school. She worked with other teen volunteers to distribute preparedness information and emergency kits and taught basic first aid. She also set up an "emergency food bar" with canned and dehydrated food. The event was featured in [FEMA's June 2016 Children and Disasters Newsletter](#).

Current Project: Project in a Box

Description: In coordination with The Corporation for National and Community Service, year two members are collaborating to create a scale-able disaster preparedness project kit, which people unfamiliar with disaster preparedness can replicate to build their own emergency preparedness projects.

Goals:

- Create a resource that people unfamiliar with disaster preparedness can easily replicate to build their own emergency preparedness projects

Previous and Ongoing Projects:

- Presented at National Congress of American Indians' annual conference
- Created a poster to alert native peoples living in California to fault lines in the state
- Organized the Native Youth Emergency Preparedness Fair at her school

Publicity:

- FEMA Announces 2016 Youth Preparedness Council Members: www.fema.gov/news-release/2016/05/17/fema-announces-2016-youth-preparedness-council-members



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- Muckleshoot Tribal Nation Practices Resilience: [https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1465595814520-7fb0c9bfaefe988386dec5cb2a55205f/June 2016 Children and Disasters Newsletter 508.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1465595814520-7fb0c9bfaefe988386dec5cb2a55205f/June%202016%20Children%20and%20Disasters%20Newsletter%20508.pdf)
- Native American Youth Strengthen Their Communities' Preparedness: [https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1448479708670-23a5e1da25115d4690ec978b4439bec7/November Children and Disasters Newsletter 508.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1448479708670-23a5e1da25115d4690ec978b4439bec7/November%20Children%20and%20Disasters%20Newsletter%20508.pdf)
- How Youth Can Move the Needle of Emergency Preparedness: <https://www.fema.gov/blog/2015-08-04/how-youth-can-move-needle-emergency-preparedness>

To reach Hailey, please contact her Region X mentor Bryant Harrison at Bryant.Harrison@fema.dhs.gov.



Megan Stutzman
FEMA Region X (Oregon)
Year 2

Megan survived, and played an active role in responding to, the 2012 Willamette River flooding. As part of her local CERT program, she served for 3 days, filling and delivering sandbags, packing and relocating items in the town's museum, and managing the check-in and checkout of equipment. Megan has since taken on a more advanced role in the CERT, serving as the Teen CERT lead, assisting with training, setting up mock disasters, and supporting community events, such as her town's Fourth of July fireworks. In November 2015, Megan helped organize an active shooter drill at her high school. The drill saw participation from approximately 120 people across 5 agencies, and it empowered Megan to motivate her peers to volunteer with local police, fire, and CERT groups. Megan recruited and coached nearly 40 teachers and students to role play as victims so the drill would be realistic. Responding to the mock shooting, Megan helped paramedics relocate those victims from hallways to safe rooms, barricade rooms against the threat, and complete triage functions in the school's library. The drill was featured in [FEMA's February 2016 Children and Disasters Newsletter](#). Megan hopes to pursue a career in emergency management and will join FEMA Corps in January 2017.

Current Project: Project in a Box

Description: In coordination with The Corporation for National and Community Service, year two members are collaborating to create a scale-able disaster preparedness project kit, which people unfamiliar with disaster preparedness can replicate to build their own emergency preparedness projects.

Goals:

- Create a resource that people unfamiliar with disaster preparedness can easily replicate to build their own emergency preparedness projects

Previous and Ongoing Projects:

- Led an active shooter drill at Central High School in Independence, OR



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Publicity:

- FEMA Announces 2016 Youth Preparedness Council Members: www.fema.gov/news-release/2016/05/17/fema-announces-2016-youth-preparedness-council-members
- Oregon High School Facilitates Active Shooter Drill: [https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1455496879053-52b45a4d3901c59daa1676efe20625a8/February Children and Disasters Newsletter 508.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1455496879053-52b45a4d3901c59daa1676efe20625a8/February_Children_and_Disasters_Newsletter_508.pdf)

To reach Megan, please contact her Region X mentor Bryant Harrison at Bryant.Harrison@fema.dhs.gov.