



High school senior Cassie teaches fourth graders about ecology (left).

Tiffany helps another seventh grader with an example of systems thinking (below).



Every step to a new level on the YouthTeachUSA Teaching Pathway contains age- and stage-appropriate teaching challenges for K-12 students. By traveling the Teaching Pathway students will:

- Have valuable, guided experiences in teaching.
- Gain repeated opportunities to help peers learn, testing interest and effectiveness in teaching.
- Experience consistent mentoring by professional educators who help students grow in teaching skills.
- Practice skills that enrich their lives, whether or not they enter teaching as a career, or become parents.
- Receive local and national recognition.
- Earn certificates and awards.
- Build resumés for college and job applications.
- Join others in a respected public service activity.

Why a Teaching Pathway?

Kids need pathways.

YouthTeachUSA is a special pathway for young people who enjoy helping others learn.

We nurture many other abilities in students: Why not teaching?

About The Hoenny Center

Our belief: The next frontier of improved teaching in America lies in systematically helping all K-12 students to teach each other more effectively.

When professional educators nurture teaching abilities in students, the students:

- Learn more deeply.
- Improve interpersonal skills.
- Develop stronger character.
- Build confidence.
- Provide community service.
- Become more responsible for their own and others' learning.
- Gain future career experience.

Students who teach build success in all their interactions, regardless of their ultimate occupations. Many will be parents one day. And as the saying goes: "parents are a child's first and most important teachers."



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C E N T E R

Developing partners. Discovering teachers.

The Hoenny Center for Research and Development in Teaching
P.O. Box 9388 • St. Louis, MO 63117

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YouthTeach USA

A National Recognition Program for K-12 students who teach.



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Dear colleague,
 With your professional help, students can walk The Hoenny Center's Teaching Pathway. As students teach each other one-on-one, or in peer groups, their knowledge of the content will deepen, their people skills will become stronger, and they'll be recognized for helping others achieve.
 Your friends at The Hoenny Center

Here's how it works:

Guided all the way by their own professional educators, YouthTeachUSA members can earn certificates, pins, and national recognition through a five-level program of teaching challenges. Level Five participants will be invited to join a national network of committed and skilled people who enjoy helping others learn.

We'll help you get started, provide a Teacher's Manual, and coach you along the way.

Call (314) 567-5111 or email us at teachers@hoennycenter.org.

"I can't even begin to tell you how [the peer teaching] experience changed the entire way my class worked together. There was a noticeable change in attitudes towards school and one another, but most importantly the increase in student engagement."

- Joselynn Agnew, 4th Grade Teacher, Des Moines, Iowa

LEVEL 1: Peer Helper

Eligibility

Any K-12 student who assists peers to learn under the supervision of a professional teacher. This level may be repeated.

Requirements

- 1 Assist classmates with schoolwork at least ten times and build a personal helping record in the classroom Peer Helper Log Book.
- 2 Complete and submit the online Hoenny Center Working Together Level One questionnaire and Peer Helper application.

LEVEL 2: Peer Leader

Eligibility

Any K-12 student who has earned the Peer Helper certificate at least once and who has a cooperating teacher. This level may be repeated.

Requirements

- 1 Successfully complete a teacher's assignment to assist the same classmates with schoolwork at least once a week for ten or more consecutive weeks. Build a leadership record in the classroom Peer Leader Log Book.
- 2 Give five or more acceptable 5–10 minute special-topic presentations or other classroom demonstrations.
- 3 Complete the online Hoenny Center Peer Leader application and Working Together Level Two questionnaire.



LEVEL 3: Peer Academic Mentor

Eligibility

Any grade 8–12 student who has earned both the Peer Helper and Peer Leader awards, and who has a cooperating teacher. This award may be repeated.*

Requirements

- 1 Successfully complete the teacher's assignment to assist the same two younger students with schoolwork for at least 25 hours during one school year. Log the teaching in the classroom Peer Academic Mentor book.
- 2 Use POLAR+** to give three or more acceptable 10–20 minute presentations or other learning demonstrations for any class.
- 3 Complete the online Hoenny Center Peer Academic Mentor application and questionnaire.

**Email us or consult the Teacher's Manual for a special expedited entry process for high school students new to the Teaching Pathway program.*

LEVEL 4: Peer Teacher

Eligibility

Any grade 9–12 student who has earned the Peer Academic Mentor certificate at least once and who has a cooperating teacher. This level may be repeated.

Requirements

- 1 Successfully complete the teacher's assignment to assist at least two specific younger students with schoolwork for at least 25 hours during one school year. Build a personal Peer Teacher log. See the YouthTeachUSA Manual.
- 2 Use POLAR+** to give three or more acceptable 15–30 minute presentations or other learning demonstrations for classes at any grade level. See the Manual for POLAR+** ideas.
- 3 Complete the online Hoenny Center Peer Teacher application and questionnaire.



LEVEL 5: Future Professional Educator

Eligibility

Any grade 11–12 student who has earned the Hoenny Center Peer Teacher certificate at least once and who has a cooperating teacher.

Requirements

- 1 Tutor at least two younger (grade K-10) students weekly with schoolwork for at least 35 hours over a school year, OR serve as an assistant to a professional teacher (any grade level) for at least one semester (20 weeks).
- 2 Give three or more acceptable 30–45 minute classroom presentations or other learning demonstrations, using POLAR+**.
- 3 Build a digital personal teaching portfolio. See the Manual for ideas.
- 4 Successfully complete a one-semester high school course in teaching or child development, OR successfully complete one early enrollment college-level course in teaching. (See Manual for other options.) Submit syllabi or other material from your completed tutoring or teaching course(s).
- 5 Successfully pass Hoenny Center Future Educator Examination online.
- 6 Complete and submit online a) a Hoenny Center Future Professional Educator application and questionnaire, and b) an electronic copy of the teaching portfolio.
- 7 Provide letters of support from three or more cooperating teachers.

***POLAR+ is a Hoenny Center system to help students with group teaching. See <http://www.hoennycenter.org> and click on POLAR+.*