

# VOICES OF AFTERSCHOOL:

An Arizona Centennial  
Writing Project



---Sabrina A.



**Arizona Center for  
Afterschool Excellence**

*Successful children and youth.  
Empowered professionals. Effective public policy.*

## **About the Voices of Afterschool Project**

Voices of Afterschool is a statewide afterschool writing project celebrating Arizona's Centennial and the creative expression of Arizona's youth. Over 1,000 youth in 55 afterschool programs across Arizona participated in Voices of Afterschool. These programs include public and private schools, as well as nonprofit, community-based, youth development, and faith-based organizations. Youth submitted essays based on three writing prompts about Arizona:

**I'm proud to live in Arizona because...**

**My vision for Arizona in the next 100 years is...**

**Young people are important to the future of Arizona because...**

The Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence selected these 100 essays representing the diversity of youth views and perceptions across the state to celebrate the many Voices of Afterschool. These voices show the strength of Arizona's afterschool programs and the children who participate in them.

## **Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence**

The Voices of Afterschool Project is the vision of the Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence, a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to the enhancement of child and youth development and educational achievement through quality afterschool programming.



The Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence (AzCASE) is the leading Arizona, statewide advocate and information resource for promoting high quality, afterschool programs as a critical component in the positive development of Arizona's youth. AzCASE is one of 39 statewide afterschool networks comprising the National Network of Statewide Afterschool Networks supported by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.  
**[www.azafterschool.org](http://www.azafterschool.org)**

**“For the past 100 years, Arizona has shown that we are a state of progress and hard work.”**

---Gema T.



---Alanna



## Faces of Afterschool Self Portraits

In 2010, 1,000 youth from Arizona afterschool programs participated in the *Faces of Afterschool: A Self-Portrait Project*. The *Faces of Afterschool* were exhibited at the Children's Museum of Phoenix, the Tucson Children's Museum, and Tucson's Park Place Mall in the fall of 2010.

Included in this publication are self-portraits from the 2010 Project to juxtapose the voices and faces that represent Arizona's youth.



## Thank you to our partners

- The Governor's Office for Children, Youth & Families
- Arizona Governor's Commission on Service & Volunteerism
- The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
- The O'Connor House Project
- The Williams Institute for Ethics & Management



**Jonathan H.** I am proud to live in Arizona because it looks nice. I like the flag because the colors are pretty. The red reminds me of the sun going down. The yellow reminds me of the sun high in the sky. The blue reminds me of the Arizona sky. The copper reminds me of history. The saguaro cactus blossom is our state flower and the colors are yellow, white, blue and copper. The flower sits on the arm of the cactus.

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
8 Years Old  
Cactus Club  
Montecito Community School  
Osborn School District  
Phoenix

**I'M PROUD TO LIVE  
in Arizona because...**



**Sydney M.** I am proud to live in Arizona because we have a great community. We have so many nice and kind people. I love to live in Arizona because it is not an unclean place and because there is not much crime. Arizona has very safe neighborhoods. I LOVE Arizona because we have so much to do. We have so much AWESOME things that we won't be bored.

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
9 Years Old  
Kyrene Kids Club – Sierra  
Kyrene School District  
Phoenix



**Jenny N.** I'm proud to live in Arizona because...

*Where the trees bloom brightly  
Where crops are abundant  
I howl a word to the sun  
The sun nods and hides its face.*

*As the coyote stalks its prey  
A butterfly meets my fingers  
I slowly look up to the sky  
The inhabitants are glad, too.*

The first reason why I'm glad to live here is because it has freedom and there are no slaves in this country. There is no injustice here in Arizona.

The last reason why I'm proud to live here is all its beautiful plants and wonderful creatures like the elegant butterfly. Its wings create the light in the world.

The hummingbird creates the ground. And finally, the ladybug gives the blue sky.

I'm glad to live in such a beautiful place.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
11 Years Old  
Kyrene de los Lagos PAC Program  
City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation  
Phoenix



**“Arizona has very good schools  
and we have rockin’  
afterschool programs.”**

---Driana L.



---Justin E.



**Haleigh K.** I am proud to live in Arizona because it is a very pretty place. It has wonderful animals, plants, trees and awesome weather. That's what I love about Arizona. The first thing I like about living here is the weather. The weather is always nice and sunny. We often have a great breeze that makes the air feel fresh. We also have monsoons, which bring us needed rain for crops and helps keep forest fires from happening.

The second thing I like about Arizona is the many fantastic places you can visit. My favorite place to visit is Payson, Arizona. The reason I like Payson is because of the snow that happens there and the many animals that live in that area. It also has cool trees. Another place I like to visit is the library. I can sit by the window and read. It is a great place to be when it rains. The library is very cool. These are the reasons I am proud to live in Arizona because it is so much fun. There are so many places to go and see.

**5th Grade**

**11 Years Old**

**After the Bell, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center**

**Larkspur Elementary School**

**Paradise Valley Unified School District**

**Phoenix**

**Ymelda Q.** It is a calm place because there are lots of birds here and lots of butterflies. I like it here so much because I was born here and I will never forget this city. This place has a park and stores and markets. This is where I want to be forever. You should live in my city. I love Tucson.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

**8 Years Old**

**La Escuelita, Our Family Services**

**Tucson**



**Draven S.** I am proud to live in Arizona because we have the right to have freedom and the power to disagree with things we do not approve of. I am also proud to live in Arizona because of the education our country provides to young children and kids that need an extra push to succeed. Our country is more than just a place to live to me, it's a safe and comfortable home that I know can protect me from danger. Arizona has a lot of great things about it that I can't describe, but I can say it's the best place to live in the world and I hope everyone else thinks as I do.

East District KIDCO Program  
City of Tucson Parks and Recreation  
Tucson

**Lina G.** You can go see the most beautiful sites. Arizona is filled with so many cool facts and creatures. I love learning about all the Native American tribes that used to live in Arizona. When the sun is setting and I look at the mountains it all looks like a painted picture coming together.

I like all types of seasons in Arizona. To me the weather is always perfect in Arizona. What I like about Arizona the most is all the places you can go to. Some are so cool! And some are so fun. I think Arizona is the best state you can live in. It does not matter what you do but you will always have fun!!!

4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
9 Years Old  
Kyrene de los Lagos PAC Program  
City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation  
Phoenix



**Carly G.** I am proud to live in Arizona because of the beauty and national monuments. The temperature may be hot but we should be grateful because some people don't get to swim or play outside because it's freezing. It's amazing how one of the five most beautiful sites is here in Arizona, the Grand Canyon! It is so marvelous how the wind carves out the rocks making rock formations that are remarkable.

I also love the Mexican food we have unlike other states. We are also so close to Mexico and have nice vacations. Thank you for reading about my fascination with Arizona.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade

10 Years Old

Tanque Verde Extended Care Program

Tanque Verde Elementary School

Tucson



---Spencer R.



**Agustin D.** I am proud to live in Arizona because we have great sports teams like the amazing Phoenix Suns that play for us. They are good because of Steve Nash. He was the MVP of the year 2006. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> great team is the Cardinals. They used to have Kurt Warner on their team. They went to the Super Bowl with Kurt Warner. Is that cool or what? We also have the Coyotes and the Diamondbacks.

Another reason why I like Arizona is that we have an amazing desert. We can see cool animals like lizards and scorpions and other kinds of animals. Some plants are cool like cactus and sunflowers and some other plants.

My last reason is that we have great people that live on Earth and fight for freedom like Pat Tillman. He fought in the war and he played with the Cardinals.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
11 Years Old  
21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center  
El Mirage Elementary School  
Dysart Unified School District  
El Mirage

**Sean S.** It's big. I like the cities and deserts and cactus. I love Arizona. We do good stuff in Arizona like pick up garbage and put stuff in the recycle bin and not use cars a lot. I like Arizona. I know you will like Arizona, it's fun.

1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
6 Years Old  
Mascot Mustang Club  
Larkspur Elementary School  
Paradise Valley Unified School District  
Phoenix



**Johnna.** I am proud to live in Arizona because it is part of a free country. In the summer I get to swim in a pool. We have really good schools. In the summer there are really good summer camps. There are a lot of events like the rodeo, gem show, and Renaissance Fair. There are a lot of places to see like the Children’s Museum, Art Museum, the Grand Canyon, the Saguaro National Park, Meteor Crater, Camp Cooper, and a lot more to see.

All the hospitals are very safe. The airports are clean. People are nice. There are people from all around the world. Most of the restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations, and stores are clean. The people who work at all these places are nice. The firemen let you take tours of the fire truck and the firehouse. The weather is hot in the summer but in the winter the weather is cold, but is not as cold as the Middle East. In the spring time all of the flowers bloom. That is why I am proud to live in Arizona.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**9 Years Old**  
**East District KIDCO Program**  
**City of Tucson Parks and Recreation**  
**Tucson**

**Dylan E.** I am proud to live in Arizona because there are cactus fruit to munch on, roadrunners zooming by, and elf owls in cactuses. I love to swim in a pool on nice summer days. It’s nice to run after an ice cream truck to cool off during those summer days.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**10 Years Old**  
**Kyrene Kids Club - Paloma**  
**Kyrene School District**  
**Chandler**



**Maya P.** I love Arizona because I play in the Arizona mountain park near my house and school with my friends. The mountain park has fun play equipment and it has pretty cactus and quails. I hike on the mountain with my family and friends and sometimes we see lizards and roadrunners.

Arizona has a bright sun, and in the hot summer I love to play games in the pool with many children.

I am very proud to live in Arizona. Next year Arizona will have its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 14, 2012.

1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
6 Years Old  
After the Bell, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center  
Larkspur Elementary School  
Paradise Valley Unified School District  
Phoenix

**Mariah M.** I'm proud to live in Arizona because there are elephants at the zoo. They can spray water on you. I like Arizona because if you're hot you can buy ice cream. I love Arizona because it has lizards. Lizards can kill spiders. I'm thankful that I live in Arizona because you can go swimming on a hot day. I am proud to live in Arizona because we get to have rocks. I'm grateful to live in Arizona because we have cactus. I'm lucky to live in Arizona because we have ghost towns.

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
7 Years Old  
GEO After School Tutoring  
Bicentennial South School  
Glendale Elementary School District  
Glendale



**“Arizona has gone through marvelous changes and experienced huge growth in its population.”**

---Sierra M.



---Makenna A.



**Anna N.** Arizona is 100 years old! Arizona is the best place. I am going to tell you about why I'm proud to live in Arizona. It's going to have a lot of facts and words.

I am proud to live in Arizona because the gemstone is turquoise, and my favorite color is turquoise. There are 113,642 square miles. It is a huge place. Arizona's state animal is called a ringtail. Arizona's song is called "Arizona March song". Arizona's tree is called a Palo Verde. The best part is that the school is clean.

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
9 Years Old  
English Language Learners Program  
Manzanita Elementary School  
Washington Elementary School District  
Phoenix

**Elena P.** I am proud to live in Arizona for many reasons. My first reason is that the scenery is always breathtaking. Another reason is that the state officials are always working hard to keep everyone safe and out of danger. Arizona also contributes a lot to America's melting pot because of all the Native American cultures and our close relationship with Mexico. We have all kinds of weather, too, from the Phoenix desert to Flagstaff's snowy mountains and everything in between. People always say if you have allergies move to Arizona. I think that is true because Arizona is just a healthy place to be.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
11 Years Old  
Mascot Club - Eagle Ridge  
Eagle Ridge Elementary School  
Paradise Valley Unified School District  
Phoenix



**Dominique B.** I am proud to live in Arizona because it doesn't snow that much. I'm happy that it doesn't snow that much because I would be very cold.

The other reason I am proud is because lots of my family members live in Arizona. I love seeing my family. I like to think about how the future is going to look in Arizona. That is why I am proud of ARIZONA.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**9 Years Old**  
**Small World**  
**D & J Education**  
**Tucson**

**Leilani C.** I am proud to live in Arizona because it is a wonderful state. Arizona has the Grand Canyon that looks like an upside down mountain.

The state bird is the cactus wren. It makes its nest in the cactuses. The state flower is the blossom on the saguaro cactus and it is a beautiful flower. The Palo Verde is the state tree. The flowers on the tree are very pretty. Arizona is an awesome place to live. That is why I like to live in Arizona.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**  
**7 Years Old**  
**Cotton Boll Elementary School**  
**Peoria Unified School District**  
**Peoria**



**Terrial R.** We have togetherness, love, strength, wisdom, and courage. Even in the hardest times we as an entire state manage to continue to keep all of these characteristics. I know you're probably thinking this cannot be possible, so let me break it down for you.

We have togetherness at all times whether good or bad. The downfall of our economy, the high rate of violence, we've come together and haven't fallen apart like many other states.

Love. Love is a word not to be used lightly. That's why love is an excellent characteristic of Arizona. Arizona is "The Love State" because our Arizonans, politicians, education providers, and many more actually care about the future of Arizona, and they love making contributions to our wonderful state.

Strength is pretty much like togetherness. Our elders give us great wisdom to not only better ourselves but to better Arizona, too!

Courage comes from every person that lives in Arizona. One way or another we have courage to stand up for what we believe in.

I am also proud to live in this glorious state because of the people I have around me. They are supportive, caring, and important. I am glad I have these people to live with and I love them extremely! They are a part of my pride and joy!

6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
12 Years Old  
Cloves C. Campbell PAC Program  
City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation  
Phoenix



**Sergio B.** Arizona is the forty-eighth state in the United States. Next year Arizona will be one hundred years old. Arizona has everything from mountains to deserts. I'm proud to live in Arizona because of the Grand Canyon and ghost towns.

The Grand Canyon is one of the seven natural wonders of the world, the only one in the United States. The Grand Canyon is nearly two billion years old and it was made by the Colorado River. The Kaibab Squirrel can only be seen in the Grand Canyon and there are buffalo, too. The bighorn sheep can be seen in the Grand Canyon. Don't you want to see these animals?

Arizona has over 275 ghost towns. The most famous are Jerome and Tombstone. Canyon Diablo which was on Route 66 was more dangerous than Tombstone and all six of their lawmen were killed. The decline of gold and silver in Arizona is why there are so many ghost towns.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**12 Years Old**  
**21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center**  
**Royal Palm Middle School**  
**Washington Elementary School District**  
**Phoenix**

**Citlalli Z.** Arizona is a loving environment with really good people. Homes are a lot cheaper than other places. Lots of sun is great for plants to grow which means more shade from trees. Arizona may not have oceans but Arizona does have lots of pools. Arizona is one of the best states in the world.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**10 Years Old**  
**Tomahawk PAC Program**  
**City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation**  
**Phoenix**



**Sierra M.** I am proud to live in Arizona because it has been a successful state since 1912 when it first became a part of the United States of America. Seeing pictures of our state 100 years ago gives us joy to see Arizona being built from the bottom to the top. The state of Arizona has gone through marvelous changes and experienced huge growth in its population.

I am also proud to live in Arizona because the education here is excellent and the teachers are all nice. We face new challenges everyday (but nothing too hard!). They let us work at our own pace and walk us through any problems or subjects that we are struggling with. I am proud to live in Arizona because it is wonderful.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
9 Years Old  
Mascot Prospector Club  
Mercury Mine Elementary School  
Paradise Valley Unified School District  
Phoenix

**Driana L.** Arizona provides a lot of opportunities and in Arizona the country is FREE! We can almost do whatever we want (except for robbing, killing and breaking the laws). And in Arizona there are a lot of good jobs and people. Also Arizona has very good schools and they have rockin' afterschool programs such as PAC, and the others. Arizona is an awesome state. So when you're on a road trip I recommend you go to Arizona!!

4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
10 Years Old  
Pena PAC Program  
City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation  
Phoenix



**“The state officials are always working hard to keep everyone safe and out of danger.”**

---Elena P.



---Brooklyn



**Gema T.** For the past 100 years, Arizona has shown that we are a state of progress and hard work. We've proved ourselves time and time again to go beyond the expected and the standard. We have moved forward in education, with top ranked universities, music with great tours and bands, and technological innovations like the light rail. We've bounced into the future and taken steps to going green. Arizona is a home to so many cultures and places. We've got museums and beautiful parks and libraries. We have natural wonders and man-made marvels. It's no wonder that people who live here love it here; and all these reasons are why I am proud to live in Arizona!

8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
14 Years Old  
Kuban PAC Program  
City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation  
Phoenix

**Emma A.** I'm proud to live in Arizona because we have our freedom. We are safe from any weather harm. Good personalities roam Arizona. I believe we can make a difference from a little cleaning and I think Arizona showed how confidence and citizenship can count to make what we call 'character'. Nobody is famous for their money or fame but for their personalities and kindness, not for the coolness or how many friends. That's how Arizona is different, nobody will judge you. Don't be afraid but be cautious because not everyone is like this, people could be like this anywhere in the world. Thank you for listening to my personal feelings.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
8 Years Old  
Mascot Wolf Club  
Sunset Canyon Elementary School  
Paradise Valley Unified School District  
Phoenix



**Mason C.** I am proud to live in Arizona because of nature and the scenery. Arizona is the best place in the world. The nature is enjoyable, lovely, and hot. I love Arizona!

In Arizona's nature collection is the creosote. Creosote is a big bush with little puffballs and yellow flowers. It smells really good after the rain. Another plant is our state tree, the Palo Verde. It is a big tree with green coloring, spiky thorns, white flowers, and small green wet leaves. It is as green as jade jewels. One last one is a cactus. Cacti are green succulents that are really spiky. One cactus is the Saguaro. This cactus can get to be very old really fast. It stores water in it and gets fatter. I love nature! Arizona is so beautiful! It is amazing to look at and learn about. It is so beautiful and special to me and hopefully everyone else. I love living in AZ and have the best place to live ever made. I love living here!

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**

**9 Years Old**

**Mascot Hawk Club**

**Desert Trails Elementary School**

**Paradise Valley Unified School District**

**Phoenix**

**Dylan M.** I am proud to live in Arizona because of our palm trees, our sunsets and the hot air balloons! I also like the parks and the zoo! We have pretty mountains! I am lucky Arizona is my home!

**Kindergarten**

**6 Years Old**

**Mascot Prospector Club**

**Mercury Mine Elementary School**

**Paradise Valley Unified School District**

**Phoenix**





--Ethan Q.

**“Arizona is a loving environment  
with really good people.”**

-- Citlalli Z.



**Gisselle M.** It is a really cool place. Arizona is a fun place when you can go to pools, parks, playgrounds and you can be relaxed wherever you go. It's also a beautiful place because of the awesome views you can see. There are places like Mount Lemmon, beautiful mountains, special minerals and mines. I'm really thankful for living in Arizona. Wow, I am surprised.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**  
**8 Years Old**  
**KIDCO Program**  
**Fred Archer Center**  
**Tucson Parks and Recreation**  
**Tucson**

**Cesar F.** We get no earthquakes, hurricanes, and tsunamis and others. It's sad to see Japan in this horrible mess and we are trying our hardest to help them and do whatever we can to help. We can pay money, donate things, make cranes and more. It's sad to see them like this.

We should try better to lower pollution because it could kill plants, creatures and the ozone layer could be destroyed too. We would stop this by using less electricity, and recycling more. We can make a huge difference.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**11 Years Old**  
**Maryland PAC Program**  
**City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation**  
**Phoenix**



**Devin D.** I was raised here and I feel free here. The hot weather allows us to go swimming, ride bikes, and play outside. The hot weather attracts bugs which also lead to more things for me to do outside.

The thing I love the most about Arizona is the environment and nature because it's beautiful and admiring. I love it in Arizona. I would be sad if I left Arizona but I would get used to my new place the same as Arizona. But one reason I don't want to leave Arizona is because I have a cool school and an awesome afterschool program.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
11 Years Old  
Maryland PAC Program  
City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation  
Phoenix

**Fernando I.** I'm proud to live in Arizona because there are interesting animals like snakes. Rattle snakes make a lot of noise. I like the way that the snake rattles. The long nose bat has very good hearing. They only come out at night. The desert has a lot of Barrel Cactus. They look like barrels. The desert tortoises look like rocks. They can blend in with rocks.

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
7 Years Old  
GEO After School Tutoring  
Bicentennial South School  
Glendale Elementary School District  
Glendale



**Marissa S.** I'm so proud to live in Arizona because when I grow up, I want to go to a good University and Arizona is a proud home to 3 excellent universities: Arizona State University, University of Arizona, and Northern Arizona University. Plus, Grand Canyon University and all of our community colleges.

Arizona has some of the most beautiful cities. I will always be proud to live in Arizona and I will never say Arizona is boring because clearly it's not.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**11 Years Old**  
**Mariposa Kid Zone**  
**City of Tempe Kid Zone Enrichment Program**  
**Tempe**

**Tony R.** I am proud to live in Arizona because Arizona is a good state and we have good food.

I am also proud to live in Arizona because I have good family and friends, cousins and brothers. I have good books to read and comic books. I have good clothes to wear and to buy. And that is why I am proud to live in Arizona.

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade**  
**6 Years Old**  
**Maryland PAC Program**  
**City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation**  
**Phoenix**



**Annemarie S.** I'm proud of living in Arizona because if I didn't I'd be lost. The reason why I'd be lost is because Arizona is the best state I have ever known. If somebody made me leave Arizona I would say this...I don't want to go to a different state, country, town or continent. I don't want to leave because Arizona is beautiful. Arizona State has all the friendly kids. I'm proud of where I am. For all you people out there I'm the proudest.

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
8 Years Old  
Mariposa Kid Zone  
City of Tempe Kid Zone Enrichment Program  
Tempe



---Thomas



**Julia W.** My vision for Arizona in the next one-hundred years is that Arizona will be a very eco-friendly place, with new trees planted, new habitats for animals, and less pollution. I also believe that the city will be larger, there will be more solar-powered cars than gas-powered cars, and that the population of the state will grow by at least 60%. I believe that Arizona will be a wonderful place to live; more people and animals will want to live here. The amount of animals will probably grow by about 30%. Less crime and airplane accidents will happen, and more community buildings will be built.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
10 Years Old  
Mascot Club  
Wildfire Elementary School  
Paradise Valley Unified School District  
Phoenix

## MY VISION FOR ARIZONA in the next 100 years is...



**Multiple Authors.** We hope to have a more advanced, stable and 24-hour state with safer roads for our vehicles to drive on. More zoos and amusement parks added to Arizona so families have a place they can go to. We hope for more Special Olympics and best buddy programs, newer model homes and vehicles that won't pollute the environment.

13-16 Years Old  
City of Scottsdale Adapted Recreation Services  
Chaparral Teen Connection  
Scottsdale



**Morgan N.** I think there will be better schools with more games for free time. I think Arizona will have more people than we have now. I think that there will be a few houses that were made 100 years ago. I think that there will be more parks and community pools. I also think that scientists will find a new kind of species. There will also be more afterschool programs.

There will be a new color for crayons, colored pencils, and markers. There will be a better government (not that our government now isn't good enough, I just think that we can do better). I think that there will be more kinds of people in Arizona. There will be different sports to play. There should be more hospitals and doctors' offices and dentists. I want there to be more rainbows. That's what I think Arizona will have in 100 years!

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
9 Years Old  
Desert Cove PAC Program  
City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation  
Phoenix

**Skylar W.** In the next 100 years I want Arizona to have all the food they want or need. I want all of the homeless people to eat fruits and vegetables. All the people will be healthy.

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
8 Years Old  
Kyrene Kids Club - Lomas  
Kyrene School District  
Phoenix



**“Arizona will be the leader of  
ending world hunger.”**

---Alicia S.



---Lorenzo C.



**Isabella G.** To have all the trash off the freeways, roads, yards and sidewalks. For everyone to have a home and to be happy. I want my grandkids kids to have safe neighborhoods and clean air. It would be nice to have no robbers and bad people. Throw away all your trash. Treat people nice and don't be mean. Don't abuse pets keep our earth clean. Don't be mean. Don't litter. Recycle all your cans and glass. Please be nice to Arizona and do your grandkids kids a good deed. Thank you!

4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
10 Years Old  
Sierra PAC Program  
City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation  
Phoenix

**Juliana P.** We will be able to have cold weather in the summer. We will be able to change the weather with a machine. We will also have a greater population. Arizona is so great now that in 100 years Arizona will be the most spectacular state ever. The sad part of it is probably all our historic treasures will be gone or broken down.

Also if the population grows we will be changing the lifecycle. Changing Arizona may be a good or bad thing. I think also if the population grows we have to tear down deserts to make homes. If we do that we will have no desert. Changing is good and I can't wait to see the new Arizona, but hope the bad parts don't happen.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
13 Years Old  
KIDCO Program  
Oury Recreation Center  
City of Tucson Parks and Recreation  
Tucson



**Monica H.** My vision for Arizona in the next 100 years is less storms and in winter I hope there will be snow in the mountains.

I want people to be more healthy. I want people to stop buying drugs.

Maybe other students in the world are going to come to Arizona and live here. I want people to build hospitals for seniors to help them. My vision for Arizona is that it will be a safe, happy place to live in the future.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**10 Years Old**

**After the Bell, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center**

**Palomino Intermediate School**

**Paradise Valley Unified School District**

**Phoenix**

**Gretchen H.** My vision for Arizona in the next 100 years is that everyone will be a friend to one another. Parks will be cleaner with no garbage around the place. People will not abuse pets. People will get better payment for most jobs. Cities will be much cleaner.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**9 Years Old**

**Rancho Santa Fe Elementary**

**Litchfield Elementary School District**

**Avondale**



**Eric L.** My vision of Arizona in 100 years is we will have better communities and coke stands. They will use watermelon gas so gas stations will smell like watermelon. We will reduce, reuse, and recycle more and have fewer landfills. That is how Arizona will change in 100 years.

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
8 Years Old  
Kyrene Kids Club - Paloma  
Kyrene School District  
Chandler

**Jhony M.** My vision for Arizona in the next 100 years is to have flying chairs and food that is already made for you. People from outer space can come to Arizona, build houses, grow vegetables and have kids.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
9 Years Old  
After the Bell, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center  
Larkspur Elementary School  
Paradise Valley Unified School District  
Phoenix

**Melani G.** To be exactly like it is today. When I grow up I might be a story writer or a chef and donate the money to a charity in Arizona.

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
9 Years Old  
Valley View PAC Program  
City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation  
Phoenix



**Jesus C.** I think we are going to have the first cure for cancer here in the great state of Arizona in the next hundred years probably. The reason why is because all of the donations and the medical research.

I also think that the Grand Canyon is going to be further down and more people from around the world are going to visit there. I'm imagining that we are going to build a ride across it to make more money. I think they are going to build an inside water park at Arizona Mills with a bunch of waterslides, a bungee jump, and a wave pool. Then it would really earn a lot of money.

I wonder if we can team up with Canada to make a super rocket because we do have NASA here. The rocket might go to Mars and we will share the fame. That is what I think is going to happen in the next hundred years in Arizona.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**12 Years Old**  
**Southwest PAC Program**  
**City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation**  
**Phoenix**

**Melissa R.** I think Arizona will be filled with lots of trash everywhere if everybody keeps littering. If people stop littering then we can move forward in the world. If we don't stop habitat destruction then there will be no more animals. But if we stop and preserve animal habitats we will have more animals. Then we can save animals that are about to be extinct.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**9 Years Old**  
**Tanque Verde Extended Care Program**  
**Tanque Verde Elementary School**  
**Tucson**



**Lucas C.** In Arizona 100 years from now, I see there being a lot more buildings and resources. I hope that they won't tear up TOO much of the wilderness for homes and buildings. Some people come just for the wilderness, and to get away from the city. Most of our main attractions here in Arizona are in the outdoors- Grand Canyon, Montezuma Castle, Monument Valley and many MANY more. In 100 years from now, I hope we have a good president that will make good decisions. I pray that in 100 years from now, Arizona will be a healthy state, like it is now.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
10 Years Old  
Mascot Mustang Club  
Larkspur Elementary School  
Paradise Valley Unified School District  
Phoenix

**Matt M.** My vision for Arizona in the next 100 years is everything will be powered by either solar, biomass, geothermal, or hydroelectric energy. There will be more museums about Arizona's past and present. Arizona will be the copper capital of the U.S. and people will appreciate our wildlife.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
10 Years Old  
Kyrene Kids Club - Paloma  
Kyrene School District  
Chandler





---Kylie M.

**Hannah V.** My vision of Arizona in 100 years is flying cars. That would be awesome. Then if you hurt your foot you won't need to press on the gas. If I were to sell flying cars I would sell them for \$50. There also might be more robots. So that's a good idea because if you wanted to sleep in you could have your robot go to school for you. Also if you choose to do that your robot can drive to your school in a flying car. That's my vision of Arizona in 100 years.

P.S. I would love it if that would really happen

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
9 Years Old  
Kyrene Kids Club - Paloma  
Kyrene School District  
Chandler



**Lasya S.** My vision for Arizona in the next 100 years is a better place to live and a better environment with more solar energy. People will be good to the environment and there will be more trees with more rain. In rivers, lakes or oceans etc., there probably will be no trash in them. Humans will cut less trees and we will have more oxygen. Animals will have homes to live in and a lot of food to eat.

Arizona will be more green with a lot of plants. People will make better use of natural sources like rainwater and sunlight. People will use rainwater for washing dishes, clothes and watering plants. People will also use rainwater for drinking and cooking. People will use solar energy for lighting and heating. People will get better jobs and live in better houses.

If we all take good care of our earth and its natural resources, we'll have a better Arizona in 100 years.

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
7 Years Old  
Before/After School Program  
Challenge Charter School  
Glendale

**Kayla W.** To have better aid for everyone. For everyone to have a better life. Everyone all around to be able to go swimming whenever they wanted. For kids to be able to have more choices and for all children's opinions to be heard.

1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
7 Years Old  
Tomahawk PAC Program  
City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation  
Phoenix



**Harmoni F.** I think the economy will lower the prices. And the gas will be \$2 a gallon. Also the economy will make new laws with the congress. I think the economy will be better. The oil prices are rising. I also think that the water will have less oils in it. I also think the schools will be better. And maybe the bills for houses will be better. Maybe the president will be a woman instead of a man. I hope my predictions come true because they are good predictions. I like my predictions a lot.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**9 Years Old**  
**Amerischools PAC Program**  
**City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation**  
**Phoenix**

**Erika R.** My vision for Arizona is that everyone will go green and everyone will be kind. Our natural resources are dwindling and we should take advantage of the sun. We should make more hybrid cars and use less gas. We will also use solar panels. I also hope that less crime will be committed and people will be kind and considerate to the people around them. They will make sure that everyone is treated the same no matter what rank, skin color, or any disabilities that that person has. They will make sure that no one feels left behind or forgotten. Hopefully the future will be better and brighter for everyone.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**10 Years Old**  
**Kyrene Kids Club - Sierra**  
**Kyrene School District**  
**Phoenix**



**Duncan H.** My vision for Arizona in the next 100 years will look a lot different than what it looks like now. Here is what my vision of Arizona will be like.

First, I think the Grand Canyon will not be there anymore. It has been here for hundreds of years. I don't think it will still be here because of how much erosion has changed it. Erosion will change the Grand Canyon into a "No Canyon".

I think the towns and cities and neighborhoods would look different too. I think the neighborhoods would look like the ones my parents grew up in. Old Fashioned, but modern at the same time. The towns and cities wouldn't have tall buildings, they would have simple small buildings. There would be no Grand Canyon, cities, towns, and neighborhoods would be different. That is my vision of Arizona in 100 years.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
11 Years Old  
Mascot Club  
Sandpiper Elementary School  
Paradise Valley Elementary School District  
Scottsdale

**Rachel L.B.** Well I may not be alive but all I can say is it would rain and get more water or snow. Also, I hope they find cures for types of cancer and diabetes because it would mean the world to me because I have diabetes. Well, that's it. Thanks for reading.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
9 Years Old  
Tomahawk PAC Program  
City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation  
Phoenix



**Anonymous Author.** My vision for Arizona in the next 100 years is flying cars, robots, and motorcycles with no gas because it's bad for our earth and our atmosphere. People shouldn't smoke because it smells bad and it hurts our planet and hurts your lungs. It can also hurt people around you. Be nice to people who are ill because it is mean and they can feel sad. We should have more world peace! DON'T use a lot of energy because it hurts our animals and our planet. Be nice to everyone and everything.

**East District KIDCO Program  
City of Tucson Parks and Recreation  
Tucson**

**Christian R.F.** I picked a world made of chocolate because I LOVE chocolate. Birds are going to be from chocolate and we can eat the birds all we want. The Milky Way will be the milky chocolate way. The houses are going to give us chocolate milk.

The sun will be made from chocolate but hot chocolate and you can chill out on the beach and play volleyball and swim in chocolate milk. And you can ride in the car made of chocolate and the streets will be chocolate and you can eat anything you want even your t-shirts and your shoes.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
12 Years Old  
After the Bell, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center  
Larkspur Elementary School  
Paradise Valley Unified School District  
Phoenix**



**“I dream that school lunches  
will be healthier.”**

--- Katey B.



---Xavier L.



**Zack D.** If I see a wishing star I am going to become a superhero. I am going to help Arizona by fighting crime and there will be no more bad people. They will have spaceships for buses and aliens driving kids to school on planet Mars. There will be flying cars. You just have to push a button in the car and the car will drive you there.

**Copper Basin YKidz Afterschool Program**  
**Kindergarten**  
**6 Years Old**  
**San Tan Valley**

**Perla M.** My vision for Arizona in the next 100 years is to have more computers in every class for every student to get ideas so they could do essays in writing, math, reading, or any subject of the day. More books for students so they could study and every kid could keep it.

Instead of a pencil sharpener, electric or any kind when you snap your fingers your pencil gets sharpened so you don't have to interrupt the teacher when she is teaching. I also want a class for girls and a class for boys so the girls don't have to be with the boys so the boys don't have to fight or anything.

And in school instead of climbing up and down stairs, there could be moving sidewalks so the students in any school around Arizona don't have to get tired with the moving sidewalks ready, freddy for school. I also want bigger rooms in schools and bigger desks for teachers to have enough space.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**10 Years Old**  
**After the Bell, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center**  
**Palomino Intermediate School**  
**Paradise Valley Unified School District**  
**Phoenix**



**Jacob B.** My vision for Arizona in the next century is more upgraded towns. We could have more solar energy panels on roofs. Perhaps improved highways, so there will be less accidents. We should also have hybrid cars so there will be less pollution because I notice some smog in the air. We should also use more law enforcement so the crime rates will be lower.

One other thing I see in the next century is less bullying in schools. I've seen a lot of bullying in schools and I think it should end for all ages. There could be security patrolling any person who bullies. That would make schools a lot more peaceful. I hope we can accomplish this in the next century.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
11 Years Old  
Kids Club  
Copper Ridge School  
Scottsdale Unified School District  
Scottsdale

**Mario Z.** My vision for Arizona in the next 100 years is that in the future there will be young, successful people that will lead our state wisely. We will have the finest workers in our state that support us, and to be honest, I think our state is the best in the country. I will never forget about this vision of Arizona. I can't wait to grow up and be part of Arizona's future.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
11 Years Old  
Camp Fire Tutoring  
Pueblo del Sol Middle School  
Isaac School District  
Phoenix



**Alicia S.** That everyone will be nice to everyone and people will not steal. I also wish that people would not kill people. People will not hurt other people. Families will not be lost because of hunger. Arizona will be the leader of ending world hunger.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**10 Years Old**  
**Esperanza PAC Program**  
**City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation**  
**Phoenix**

**Alexis Q.** I would like the kids to have more recess. That's because it is good for your body. It is also fun to play with your friends. There are swings, slides, bars, and sand. There's also a lot of games, hide and go seek, basketball, football. It's good to play outside and inside.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**  
**9 Years Old**  
**Stallion Stables Program, Stetson Hills School**  
**Deer Valley Unified School District**  
**Phoenix**

**Katey B.** That the litter on the ground will disappear. All people will treat everyone with respect and kindness. Population will grow and we will end world hunger and homelessness. I dream that school lunches will be healthier and Arizona will have more water and plants. I hope that prices will go down. I wish Arizona will be a better place.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**  
**9 Years Old**  
**Kyrene Monte Vista PAC Program**  
**City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation**  
**Phoenix**



**Andres Y.** My vision for Arizona in the next 100 years is that I think there will be many things that fly. Shoes and backpacks will help you to fly anywhere you want to go. I also believe there will be cars that can fly you anywhere in the world. I will tell you more.

First, I think there will be more pollution in Arizona by then. So we need to make solar cars to help slow down global warming or we will be in trouble. Solar cars will help stop pollution in Arizona and the world.

Second, there will be flying cars in those 100 years. Floating homes and flying shoes to help cut pollution in Arizona. Also jet packs, cars that drive themselves, better weapons and newer games for all people.

Third, there will be new clothing styles and haircuts too. I think everyone will wear white clothes and have long hair. They will wear white clothes because they are cooler and Arizona may become hotter. The longer hair will protect your head from the heat.

That is my vision for Arizona in the next 100 years. Things will change a great deal and we will have to deal with it the best we can.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
12 Years Old  
After the Bell, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center  
Larkspur Elementary School  
Paradise Valley Unified School District  
Phoenix



**“In the future there will be young,  
successful people that will  
lead our state wisely.”**

--- Mario Z.



--- Alicia A.



**Jesse L.** My vision for Arizona in the next 100 years is a more complex and less polluted society with helpful devices and vehicles.

First, I am going to talk about the helpful devices. I picture sunglasses that allow you to watch TV and go on the Internet. There will be robots that help you with homework and business. The last device is a printer that makes anything you want except weapons and rampageous animals.

The second thing I'm going to talk about is the pollution. No one should cut down trees to make useless buildings or paper. We should use papyrus to make paper and we should tear down some buildings to help animals get their homes back. Cars pollute the air with the gas they waste and we should use solar power and cow manure to power cars.

The last thing I'm going to talk about is the futuristic vehicles. I picture flying cars and motorcycles. I also picture jet packs and rocket shoes that run on solar power and cow manure. The last vehicle is a boat that can hover on land.

Thank you for listening to my vision in Arizona in the next 100 years.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
11 Years Old  
After the Bell, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center  
Larkspur Elementary School  
Paradise Valley Unified School District  
Phoenix



**Kiara D.** Young people hold Arizona's future and path. Also, kids are important to Arizona's future because they might become the senators, presidents, a judicial judge, an actress, a singer, a doctor, or pretty much any job in the world! But kids also have jobs to do right now. Kids have jobs like chores, Girl Scouts, dance or gymnastic competitions, community service, and even jobs like little kid counselors. Kids should always be important to the future. When kids grow up, they will have kids, and on, and on. The next time you see a kid, remember they have a big part to play. And remember they were like you in ways when you were a kid. So treat kids no differently than you would treat yourself!

5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
10 Years Old  
Kyrene Monte Vista PAC Program  
City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation  
Phoenix

**YOUNG PEOPLE**  
are important to  
Arizona's future because...



**Kevin H.** If all the old people passed away and there weren't any young people then who would celebrate Arizona's birthday? That's why I think young people are important to Arizona.

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
9 Years Old  
Black PAC Program  
City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation  
Phoenix



**Bryson C.** I believe young people are important to Arizona's future because they will get to choose what happens in Arizona and in the world. Once people get interested in a job, they'll probably do it for the rest of their lives. If they don't get an idea completed, like a new plane, then children, when they grow up, will get to use new ideas on the subject. Also, when children grow up, they can change problems, like pollution, and water pollution. The children can choose to save the world and help clean it up or make it a place that sewer monsters live in.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
11 Years Old  
Stallion Stables Program  
Stetson Hills School  
Deer Valley Unified School District  
Phoenix

**Liliana F.** Well, you know how a lot of adults have jobs to help educate and earn money for their family? All the work is not just grown-ups! Kids are working hard to become exactly like that! We are growing up to be doctors, vets, singers, philanthropists, construction workers, mailmen, workers, or maybe even presidents! We are getting prepared for the future. If you want to be a pilot, you need good math skills! Or if you want to be a librarian, big reading skills needed! An architect has to have HUGE SKILLS in Social Studies. And if you want to be a scientist, you have to be good at science.

Kids have many jobs now, such as going to school, clubs, etc.!

5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
11 Years Old  
Kyrene Monte Vista PAC Program  
City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation  
Phoenix



**Ariana S.** Young people are the future of Arizona. People that work now will retire eventually, so young people will have to lead the way when they get older.

These young people will become part of Arizona's government, lawyers, doctors, teachers and other professionals and workers that will make a big difference. Thus we should properly educate and give many opportunities to young people.

Arizona can help by making less budget cuts to education and investing more money towards programs that involve young people. By investing in young people now, the future of Arizona will be better for everyone.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**10 Years Old**  
**Junior Girl Scout Troop 275**  
**Phoenix Country Day School**  
**Paradise Valley**

**Caitlin A.** Young children are important because some of our parents never got an education or any attention when they were younger. Today, things have changed. Better care, more education for kids. Most of Arizona has outdone itself. The population in Arizona is pretty good.

Every day if you think you don't like today think back to your adults. Things are even better today. I am Caitlin and I approve this message.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**10 Years Old**  
**Mariposa Kid Zone**  
**City of Tempe Kid Zone Enrichment Program**  
**Tempe**



**“By investing in young people now, the future of Arizona will be better for everyone.”**

--- Ariana S.



---Juliana P.



**Garrett G.** Young people are important to Arizona’s future because they are the future of this great state. They can invent new things to help Arizona and the environment. Some examples are solar pizza makers and flying cars that drop seeds to help plant trees and flowers. There could be a new president and a new government that would enforce laws. Make laws that would secure Arizona and make it a safer place to live. We could have more security by placing more guards to protect our national monuments.

People in the future could cross breed to create new species of animals such as a dog and a cat or a bird and a snake. People could make new foods and with greater technology advances could invent new concepts with foods. Robots could be doing a great deal of this work for us at this time. There could be all these awesome inventions going on in our state at the same time. That is why I think young people are important to Arizona’s future!

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**12 Years Old**

**After the Bell, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center**

**Larkspur Elementary School**

**Paradise Valley Unified School District**

**Phoenix**

**Ben S.** Young people are important to Arizona’s future because they will have important jobs some day. They will take care of their friends and family. They will make new friends. They will populate the state and they will make beautiful plans.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

**7 Years Old**

**Mariposa Kid Zone**

**City of Tempe Kid Zone Enrichment Program**

**Tempe**



**Samihan M.** Adults will eventually die, which will make companies open up spots for jobs and young adults will apply for the job and they might figure out how to make our community better. My 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Mr. Guerrero, says that present day kids have to learn much more than the adults did. Kids who learn about reusable energy might stop using fossil fuels (oil, natural gas, coal, etc.) and start using wind turbines, electricity generating solar panels, and ethanol to produce an environment safe fuel. Maybe, one day, our Earth will be so advanced that we might travel faster than the speed of light, which scientists think is technologically impossible. If Sonic the Hedgehog can be as fast (not faster) as the speed of light, why can't we? A scientist will say, "He is a cartoon." I believe we can. A ton of people like me will surely help the world! This is why young people are important to Arizona's future!

4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
9 Years Old  
Sierra PAC Program  
City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation  
Phoenix

**Lorelei G.** Young people are very important to Arizona's future. They can help our state like anybody else. When they grow up they could be lawyers, presidents, or even a police officer. Once, a long time ago the greatest people were young like people who are presidents and lawyers. That's why young people are important to Arizona.

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
9 Years Old  
Mariposa Kid Zone  
City of Tempe Kid Zone Enrichment Program  
Tempe



**“If everyone inspires and makes good role models for youngsters, they could want to do good things not only in our state, but country too!”**

--- Karla F.



---Jesse A.



**Rachel S.** This generation of kids will be the next generation of adults. The children will have to take the place of all the adults. One day, the adults will retire, and the kids will have grown up enough to work. They will be adults and the former adults will be seniors. The new adults will start a family and the cycle will continue.

This all means that it is important for kids to make the right choice. They need to keep Arizona's community going smoothly. If too many kids make wrong choices, things will be out of balance. Making the right choices are things like choosing not to take drugs or alcohol, and doing your best in school. If everybody makes the right choices things could be even better.

Even after making the right choices, after growing up, and becoming an adult, there's more. If they choose to have a family, they need to teach their kids to make the right choices. The new adults (which are the kids now) must lead their children down the right track, as their parents did for them. Eventually, the children will figure out their big role in the community that we have today. The children are the future of Arizona.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
11 Years Old  
Mascot Club  
Sandpiper Elementary School  
Paradise Valley Elementary School District  
Scottsdale



**Jonathan W.** Young people are important to our society because they are the ones who will become sports players, big business owners, maybe even the president. If kids get a poor school education, they could end up on the streets. It is their parent's job to keep them off the streets and give them what they need. It is a very hot summer and people die of thirst every day. A lot of kids are abandoned by parents and they grow up to be in gangs. I know my music teacher will always take in anyone and help anyone she can. One time she made a fundraiser for a poor family to have electricity. The kids are our future and they need help.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**11 Years Old**

**Stallion Stables Program**

**Stetson Hills School**

**Deer Valley Unified School District**

**Phoenix**

**Marcos B.** Young people are important to Arizona's future because they can do a lot of great things. We never know what young people can make or discover. Young people experience things and they can help make or invent new and more convenient materials or inventions. All of our needs can be easier to do and could help us do things quicker.

Those are reasons that young people are important to Arizona's future.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**11 Years Old**

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center**

**El Mirage Elementary School**

**Dysart Unified School District**

**El Mirage**



**Jose N.** Young people are important to Arizona because people don't live forever and you have to stay in school so maybe one day you could run the state.

There are a lot of things young people can do to help the state. People have to take care of the world. Not just teenagers too. So young people are important to Arizona because life goes on.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
11 Years Old  
After the Bell, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center  
Larkspur Elementary School  
Paradise Valley Unified School District  
Phoenix

**Angelina M.P.** The reason why I think kids are important is because they will create the future! Children will keep things the way they are! Children will help save animals! Children will create new things everyday! Children will make money and build new things! Children will make new children when they are grown-ups! When the children grow up, they will help other children! Children will grow fruits for other children! Children will make friends with other kids who had no friends and were alone! That is why I think kids are important!

The End.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
10 Years Old  
Clarendon PAC Program  
City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation  
Phoenix



**Bella H.** I love Arizona...

Because I am free.

Because there are nice people.

Because I feel safe.

Young people are important to Arizona's future because...

They will populate the state.

They will make new friends.

They will make beautiful plans.

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade**

**7 Years Old**

**Mariposa Kid Zone**

**City of Tempe Kid Zone Enrichment Program**

**Tempe**

**Karla F.** One day everyone is going to be something big in our state. Some of us will be mayors, others doctors. The reason all these things are important to our great state is because we need important people for important jobs. For example, we need doctors so people won't get sick. We need mayors to run our cities. If we never had these things our world would be in lots of trouble.

If everyone inspires and makes good role models for youngsters, they could want to do good things not only in our state, but country too! Kids would want to be in the army, doctors, mayors and even presidents!

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**11 Years Old**

**Kennedy PAC Program**

**City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation**

**Phoenix**



**“If you think about it, everyone is a kid at one point in their life. Some of the greatest people in history were kids.”**

--- Jayla A.



---Amy L.



**Nora K.** Young people are important to Arizona because they can help by making a difference. Just because they are smaller than grown-ups they can do some things better. For example, if a woman dropped her money I would go pick it up and stop her and give it back because young people can make a difference. That is why young people are important.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**  
**8 Years Old**  
**Before/After School Program**  
**Challenge Charter School**  
**Glendale**

**Elizabeth P.** I think young people are important to Arizona's future because they can make the world a better place. Little kids can explore the earth. I think it will be helpful to the animals. Their dreams will come true.

Younger people are more advanced in technology. Young people will be in offices. They will run Arizona even better and they will vote on issues they believe in. So that is why young people are important to Arizona's future.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**  
**9 Years Old**  
**Southwest PAC Program**  
**City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation**  
**Phoenix**



**Samiyah S.** Young people are important to Arizona because without young people, there would be no people to grow up here. Another thing is young people can teach adults things and adults can learn lots from children- things that they have never learned before. Also, kids have energy and without energy, it wouldn't be as much fun.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
10 Years Old  
Mariposa Kid Zone  
City of Tempe Kid Zone Enrichment Program  
Tempe

**Jayla A.** Young people are important to Arizona's future because they are young people of the future doctors, lawyers, teachers, firefighters, and police. Young people teach people to be creative and spontaneous. We also see the beauty in everything in the world.

Kids are not just important to Arizona, they are important to the world. If you think about it, everyone is a kid at one point in their life. Some of the greatest people in history were kids.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
10 Years Old  
Esperanza PAC Program  
City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation  
Phoenix



**Sakilae W.** When the older citizens move on (die), the younger people will be the appearance of Arizona. First, young people are important to Arizona because we are the up and coming generations. In Arizona there are a lot of many great leaders, and when these leaders are gone, young people will have to face the many challenges of Arizona.

Secondly, young people are important to Arizona's future because we have the power to make change. Some young people are not happy with the rights citizens have. With younger people in the up and coming years of Arizona, we will be able to give people the rights that they want.

Next, young people are important to Arizona because of the appearance we would have on the state. If the younger kids are acting uncivilized and pursuing the wrong jobs, then Arizona would be a troubled state to the citizens and the states around the US. If the younger kids are following the right things, then Arizona will look like a state of togetherness and professionalism. These are the main reasons why young people are so important to Arizona's future.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**12 Years Old**  
**Campbell PAC Program**  
**City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation**  
**Phoenix**

**Tyler W.** Young people are important to Arizona because the schools won't go out of business.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**9 Years Old**  
**Mariposa Kid Zone**  
**City of Tempe Kid Zone Enrichment Program**  
**Tempe**





---Tyler V.

**Rachel M.** Young people are important to Arizona's future because we can stop people from taking over our beloved desert. We can also stop pollution and make the world a better place. In cars we can put a device that when the air goes in, clean air comes out. I think we need more solar panels in Arizona. We can use that energy when we're older to help natural resources and the earth. That is why I think young people are important to Arizona's future.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**10 Years Old**  
**Mascot Club**  
**Wildfire Elementary School**  
**Paradise Valley Unified School District**  
**Scottsdale**



**Samantha G.** We grow up to be mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, grandmas, grandpas or just people. Us young people built this planet, state, and country. We are just like you, just smaller forms. If you are important then we are too. If we are not important, neither are you. We look different but on the inside we are all the same.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**10 Years Old**  
**Pena Elementary PAC Program**  
**City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation**  
**Phoenix**

**Carly S.** Do you ever wonder about Arizona's future? Did you realize kids are what will make Arizona amazing in the future?

As kids, we have a big role in keeping Arizona an outstanding place. One way we can reach that goal is by recycling. One piece of Styrofoam can take thousands of years to deposit into the soil beneath Arizona's landfills. That's only one of the many reasons we should recycle. We also need to be able to be educated. Education is very important in Arizona's future. Us kids need to be educated to work our businesses and teach our own children. Sometimes we may complain about going to school, but it's something us kids can do to make a better future for Arizona. Now you know how important kids are to Arizona's future. We as kids must be open to recycling and getting educated if we want Arizona to have a great future!

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**11 Years Old**  
**Mascot Coyote Club**  
**Copper Canyon Elementary School**  
**Paradise Valley Unified School District**  
**Scottsdale**



**“We need to have good leaders to  
guide our state into good hands.”**

--- Andres P.



---Andrew L.



**Marco H.** Young people are important to Arizona’s future because I think they could fight for better justice and laws, provide jobs and scholarships for us, the children and our parents.

We all want our state to be a better place for people to live in and I personally believe that the young generation could do it! I really hope and think that a young generation will clean our air and eliminate pollution as much as possible so kids that have asthma like myself can breathe and have a normal and joyful life. And we could have more firefighters that could save more people that need help. The kids that are Mexican need to have a good school to learn and get a scholarship.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**12 Years Old**  
**Camp Fire Tutoring**  
**Pueblo del Sol Middle School**  
**Isaac School District**  
**Phoenix**

**Noe M.** Young people are important to Arizona’s future because the older people are dying and the young people are going to school so they can learn about stuff. They could learn about science to keep the desert living and to help animals stay alive. If we didn’t learn about science we would have a bad world. Arizona needs young people in order to keep up with technology.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**12 Years Old**  
**After the Bell, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center**  
**Larkspur Elementary School**  
**Paradise Valley Unified School District**  
**Phoenix**



**Steven L.** Young people are important to our future because our parents sign us up for school which costs money. The money they give benefits you. Without our young kids, school districts would go out of business which means you would lose your jobs and won't be able to pay your taxes. Then you would be moved out of your house then live on the street. Young kids are important to me and you. Funny how one small thing could be so big. Just remember young kids are important to the future. Thank you and farewell.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
10 Years Old  
Mascot Coyote Club  
Copper Canyon Elementary School  
Paradise Valley Unified School District  
Scottsdale**

**Andres P.** Young people are important to Arizona's future because in my 12-year-old vision, we need to have good leaders to guide our state into good hands. Also, younger generations can lead our army so it can get really strong in case our country needs a lot of help. For instance, I can't wait to grow up and become a really good chef to help people with nutrition problems. Also, we should build hospitals so sick people can have healthier lives and medical insurance so they can afford to go to the hospital. Also, have better medicine for people.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
12 Years Old  
Camp Fire Tutoring  
Pueblo del Sol Middle School  
Isaac School District  
Phoenix**



**Sydney N.** What do you think of when you think of the future? Probably flying cars, holograms, and all sorts of technology. But, do you ever wonder how? All of that depends on young people.

Young people have the chance to learn about the economy and how it could change. To learn how they can change it. Right now, our economy is recovering from two years ago. Young people can make that not happen ever again.

Pollution needs to stop. If you think about it, it's revolting. It's the gasses, fumes, and all mechanical work that goes on inside cars and trucks. All of that gets let go in the air and makes the air filled with all of that stuff. We all breathe that in. But the young people can improve that. They can make more electricity-running cars to stop that pollution.

Yes, the future depends on young people. They are the next generation. They can majorly change Arizona. That is how young people are important to Arizona's future!

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**11 Years Old**

**Mascot Coyote Club**

**Copper Canyon Elementary School**

**Paradise Valley Unified School District**

**Scottsdale**





## **Arizona Historical Advisory Commission, Arizona Centennial Legacy Projects**

The Voices of Afterschool: Arizona Centennial Project was selected as one of the Arizona Historical Advisory Commission (AHAC) official state Legacy Projects. AHAC will commemorate Arizona's Centennial by designating state Legacy Projects that accurately portray significant aspects of Arizona's history and culture and are educational and lasting.

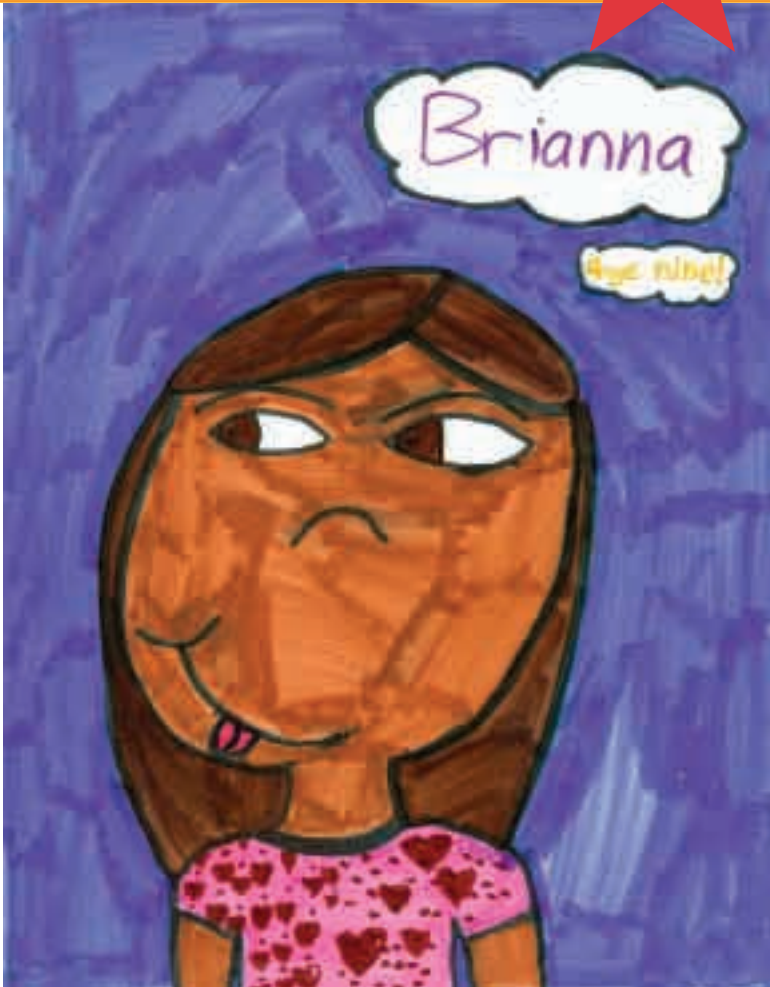
Legacy Projects involve community-wide collaboration and demonstrate the vitality, quality and diversity of Arizona. These projects will help to establish a lasting legacy well into the next century. The scope of projects will enhance teaching and learning about Arizona's history with new content from accurate, original research. Through such projects, the Centennial will draw tourists to Arizona, and spur an interest to explore parts of the state not yet visited by its residents.

**[www.azcentennial.gov](http://www.azcentennial.gov)**



# VOICES OF AFTERSCHOOL:

An Arizona Centennial  
Writing Project





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# Quality Afterschool Program Checklist

## AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM BASICS

- What is the program's mission and philosophy?
- Is the program licensed? Is it licensed-exempt?
- Does the program have an orientation and policy manual for new families?
- How are families involved in the program?
- What is the program fee? Is there financial assistance available?
- Does the program serve children with special needs?
- What is the procedure for handling emergencies?

## PHYSICAL SPACE REQUIREMENTS

- Does the facility appear clean, safe and organized?
- Is there adequate space and materials for a variety of activities?
- Are there quiet, soft spaces for reading, homework, quiet games and those times when a child might want to be away from the larger group?
- Is the outdoor space safe and large enough to host a range of recreation and physical activities?

## SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Are the children happy, having fun and actively engaged in the program?
- Do the children have a role in planning program activities, content and schedule?
- Are children encouraged to try new activities and build new skills that may be unfamiliar to them and out of their comfort zone?
- How are children encouraged to resolve differences among themselves?

## ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

- Does the program provide a rich, informal learning atmosphere that expands on and reinforces concepts learned in the classroom?
- Is homework assistance provided?
- Is creativity fostered and encouraged through music, art, dance, theatre?
- Is problem solving and critical thinking fostered and encouraged through hands-on experiments?
- Is technology available and what meaningful role does it play (beyond the playing of video games)?
- Is physical activity an important component of the program?
- Is the programming sufficiently varied or change with some frequency so as not to become boring and repetitive?
- Are the children having FUN!?

## STAFF

- Does the staff greet each child's arrival in a warm and friendly manner?
- Is staff actively engaged in activities & conversations with the children and youth?
- Is staff respectful to each other, the children and the parents?
- What is the staff to child/youth ratio?
- Does the staff give meaningful and frequent feedback to parents about their child's growth and development?



“We have the power to  
make change.”

--- Sakilae W.



---Colleen



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112 N Central Avenue, Suite 700, Phoenix, AZ 85004  
602.496.3307 · info@azafterschool.org · www.azafterschool.org