

Frequently Asked Questions for AOSN Website

What is the Arkansas Youth Development Institute?

The Arkansas Youth Development Institute (YDI) is designed to provide free, easily accessible, and quality training on the core knowledge needed when working with youth. The Institute's course work is organized into courses that take approximately one to two hours to complete. Out of School Time (OST) professionals can pick and choose which courses to take in any order. The course content is relevant to OST professionals serving children and youth in the elementary grades to high school.

How did the Arkansas Youth Development Institute come to be?

The Arkansas Youth Development Institute was developed from working closely with the Colorado Afterschool Network (CAN) and The Partnership for Families and Children based in Denver, Colorado. Launched in early 2008 in Colorado, the Youth Development Institute was created to help meet the professional development needs of youth workers in Colorado who did not always have access to traditional, face-to-face professional development opportunities in their local community. Having experienced some of the same challenges in Arkansas, the Arkansas Out of School Network (AOSN) developed a relationship with CAN and the Partnership for Children and Families to bridge a similar gap in OST professional development; especially in rural and underserved areas. Since the onset of this collaboration, AOSN has worked closely with the staff in Colorado and other partners to create additional courses that are evidence-based research and that are supported by current best practices in the field of Youth Development. Each course undergoes extensive review, field testing, and ongoing evaluation to ensure the courses are meeting the needs of the OST field. All courses are accessible for free to OST professionals in Arkansas.

How to I gain access to the Arkansas Youth Development Institute Courses?

To gain access you will need to visit the Arkansas Out of School Network website at www.aosn.org and click on the Youth Development Institute tab. At the bottom of the page, you will be prompted to use your mouse to click on the **"Click Here to Start"** hyperlink. Upon registering with the Institute, you will be assigned a user name and password that will then grant you access to all the Arkansas Youth Development Institute Courses.

How do I get my certificate of completion?

The criteria for a certificate of completion are that every page has been viewed, all quizzes have been passed with a 75% or higher, and a minimum of 1 posting to a discussion forum per course. Once all criteria have been met, the YDI platform will issue you a system generated certificate of completion. You will have the option to download this certificate at any time. To print a certificate go to your dashboard, click "View Details" for any course you have successfully completed, and just below the "Course Status" you will see a link that says "Click here for your printable certificate of completion."

What if I don't pass the quiz(zes) in the course?

There are make-up quiz(zes) offered. This option will be offered to you at the end of the failed quiz.

What if I don't pass the make-up quiz?

If you fail the make-up quiz, you become ineligible to receive a certificate of completion for that course. However, you still have an opportunity to take the course again. Contact Karl Benz, AOSN Professional Development and Leadership Coordinator at kbenz@astate.edu to arrange to take the course again.

What if I forgot to add a posting to the course discussion forum?

You may enter the course at any time to complete this task.

Do I have to complete the course within an allotted amount of time?

No. These courses are self-paced and you may return to complete them at any time. Once you complete the course (no matter how long it may take) then you will be eligible for a certificate of completion.

How much do these courses cost?

At this time, these courses are offered for FREE to any Arkansas subscriber!

Is clock hour credit assigned to each of the courses?

Each of the Arkansas YDI courses have been assigned a standard clock hour credit based on the average amount of time each course takes to complete. Individuals that take more or less time to complete a course will still receive the same assigned clock hour credit for each course.

I noticed that some of the courses have corresponding Supervisor's Guides. What are these guides?

Selected courses have corresponding Supervisor Guides that are a collection of 3-5 meeting plans that supervisors can use for professional development sessions that are based on the YDI curriculum. To learn more about how to use these guides with staff in your OST program, visit the YDI website and take the short **"Supervisor Guide Tutorial"** that is accessible by clicking on the **"Supervisor Guide Tutorial"** tab.

Are these courses registered with the Professional Development Registry (PDR)?

Yes

What is the Professional Development Registry (PDR)?

The Professional Development Registry (PDR) is the tracking component of the Arkansas Early Childhood Professional Development System. The Registry plays a key part in promoting professional development. Members of the PDR have access to an online training transcript, which lists the training he or she has attended over the year. Fifteen hours of training are required each year to maintain membership. Members are each assigned a unique Registry Identification numbers that is used to track their professional development hours. Each member is assigned a level according to the education and training he or she has received. Membership is FREE. To learn more about becoming a member of the Professional Development Registry (PDR) visit <https://pdregistry.arkansas.gov/>

Once I complete a course, what do I need to do to get credit on the Professional Development Registry (PDR)?

Once you complete the course exam successfully, you will automatically receive a certificate from the YDI platform administrator. Your information will then be delivered to the Professional Development Registry. After your information is processed, credit will be posted to your PDR training transcript.

I am a certified employee of an Arkansas public school and am required to complete approved professional development each year. Can this training count towards the required professional development hours for education professionals?

Individuals are encouraged to talk with their school administrator and to visit the Arkansas Department of Education website to learn about professional development criteria. Information can be found at:

<http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/professional-development>

If I have more questions regarding the YDI, whom should I contact?

Contact Karl Benz at kbenz@astate.edu or 501-660-1014.

If I have more questions regarding the PDR Registry, whom should I contact?

Contact the Registry at (888) 429-1585 or (870) 972-3055.