

**Contact TEDxRedmond**  
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## **Redmond event brings “Power to the Students”**

*An independently organized TED-like event, made to inspire the new generation to do great things, TEDxRedmond mixes live speakers and previously recorded TED talks to create an educational environment for spreading ideas and motivation. This is the perfect opportunity to spread creative, fresh ideas to the entire world. Notable kids presenting include **Jordan Romero**, the youngest to climb Mt. Everest; **Zach Veatch**, Anti-Texting SpokesKID and Andretti Autosport race car driver; and **Olivia Boulter**, the AOL Artist raising funds for the Gulf.*

Redmond, WA. (Aug. 9, 2010): Organized by kids, for kids, TEDxRedmond (where x = independently organized TED event) is a conference to be held on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Sponsored by Microsoft’s Bing and Generation Yes, the event will be taking place on Microsoft’s campus in Redmond, Washington. What is TEDx? In the spirit of “ideas worth spreading,” notable non-profit TED ([www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com)) has created TEDx—a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. After speaking at the main TED conference in Long Beach, California, twelve-year-old internationally published author and speaker Adora Svitak decided to bring a similarly mind-opening experience to her peers in Washington State.

“I’d heard about the TEDx program, and I was intrigued. I started thinking about how I could get kids my age thinking about learning and leadership—particularly, from speakers their own age,” Svitak, who will be hosting TEDxRedmond, says.

At TEDxRedmond, live speeches, exciting performances, and prerecorded TEDTalks video will combine to spark deep discussion and connection. Speakers share their important visions for the future, and the audience gets involved in the big picture, addressing new perspectives and spreading inspiration. Though the TED Conference provides general guidance for the TEDx program, individual TEDx events, including ours, are self-organized. TEDxRedmond is open to participants ages 11-15 (grades 6-10) from across western Washington, and around the world.

“I think that having a chance to express yourself is something not every kid gets,” says Victoria Bawn, local Washington Middle School student. “But this is the perfect opportunity to get noticed.” Victoria is part of the TEDxRedmond planning committee, having designed the event’s promotional poster and stationery. She fulfills the role of local media coordinator.

Speakers will include notable youth from Washington State and around the world. Upcoming TEDxRedmond speakers include:

- **Jessica Markowitz**, who founded her own charity to educate girls in Rwanda (recently featured on the cover of Parade Magazine along with actor Matthew McConaughey)
- **Sierra Alef, Kelsey Josund, and Maddy Berkman** founded the Pink Polka Dots Guild, a charity which works to raise money for children's cancer research
- **Simone Porter**, thirteen-year-old violinist
- **Adrianna Svitak**, artist and musician with awards from organizations like the the Music Teachers' National Association (MTNA) and the Northwest Chopin Festival.
- **Jordan Romero**, 14-year-old mountaineer and the youngest ever to climb Mt. Everest
- **Zach Veach**, 15-year-old spokesKID for Oprah's "No Phone Zone" and Andretti Autosport race car driver
- **Olivia Boulter**, 11-year-old AOL Artist and aspiring ornithologist, raising funding to preserve the Gulf of Mexico
- **Alec Looorz**, founder of Kids vs. Global Warming
- **Noah Andrade**, an 11-year-old singer and guitarist
- **Perry Chen**, the ten-year-old movie reviewer and animator
- **Alec Looorz**, founder of Kids vs. Global Warming
- **Brigitte Berman**, anti-bullying activist and author of Dorie Witt's Guide to Surviving Bullies
- **Jason O'Neill**, entrepreneur and founder of Pencil Bugs

**About TED:** TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading. Started as a four-day conference in California 25 years ago, TED has grown to support those world-changing ideas with multiple initiatives. The annual TED Conference invites the world's leading thinkers and doers to speak for 18 minutes. Their talks are then made available, free, at TED.com. TED speakers have included Bill Gates, Al Gore, Jane Goodall, Elizabeth Gilbert, Sir Richard Branson, Nandan Nilekani, Philippe Starck, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Isabel Allende and former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown. The annual TED Conference takes place in Long Beach, California, with simulcast in Palm Springs; TEDGlobal is held each year in Oxford, UK. TED's media initiatives include TED.com, where new TEDTalks are posted daily, and the Open Translation Project, which provides subtitles and interactive transcripts as well as the ability for any TEDTalk to be translated by volunteers worldwide. TED has established the annual TED Prize, where exceptional individuals with a wish to change the world are given the opportunity to put their wishes into action; TEDx, which offers individuals or groups a way to host local, self-organized events around the world, and the TEDFellows program, helping world-changing innovators from around the globe to become part of the TED community and, with its help, amplify the impact of their remarkable projects and activities. Follow TED on Twitter at [twitter.com/TEDTalks](https://twitter.com/TEDTalks), or on Facebook at [facebook.com/TED](https://facebook.com/TED). TEDGlobal 2010, "And Now the Good News," will be held July 13-16, 2010, in Oxford, UK. TED2011, "The Rediscovery of Wonder," will be held February 21-25, 2011, in Long Beach, California, with the TEDActive simulcast in Palm Springs, California.

Combined, the speakers have been featured in a wealth of national media, including The Oprah Winfrey Show, The Gayle King Show, CNN, Good Morning America, Larry King Live, CBS Evening News with Katie Couric, People Magazine and USA Today, among others.

For more information, please visit [www.tedxredmond.com](http://www.tedxredmond.com) or [www.twitter.com/tedxredmond](http://www.twitter.com/tedxredmond). Additionally, you can follow TEDxRedmond at [www.twitter.com/tedxredmond](http://www.twitter.com/tedxredmond). On September 18th, 2010, a live webcast will be streaming from the event at [www.ustream.tv/tedxredmond](http://www.ustream.tv/tedxredmond).

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