

Second Annual
MOWW National Youth Civics Summit
13 – 19 July 2025





The MOWW National Youth Civics Summit 2025

Fulfilling the Goals, Vision, and Purpose of the Military Order of the World Wars

From the MOWW Preamble:

**To inculcate and stimulate love of our country and flag,
to promote and further patriotic education in our nation,
and to transmit all these ideals to posterity.**

The MOWW Vision:

A strong America, dedicated to preserving and advancing American Ideals and Founding Principles.

Serving Youth, Community & Nation



What was the **National Youth Civics Summit?**

The National Youth Civics Summit (NYCS) was a non-partisan event that aimed to enhance the civic education of high school students from across the country by providing them with firsthand experiences in and around Washington, D.C., with a focus on government, history, and the responsibilities of citizenship. The NYCS was offered at no cost to its attendees.

In 2025, it was held July 13 - 19 in Washington, D.C.



**To inculcate and stimulate love of our country and flag,
to promote and further patriotic education**

Throughout the NYCS, students engaged directly with members of our nation's Legislative Branch, met with other leaders within our government, gained personal knowledge of the Capitol Hill environment, and explored institutions like the Supreme Court, Pentagon, the Library of Congress, and significant historical sites. In 2025, the NYCS brought together 18 students from across the country.

The MOWW Foundation, in partnership with Military Order of the World Wars, provided the funding for the second annual National Youth Civics Summit.



The MOWW Foundation



★ MOWW ★
FOUNDATION

About Us:

The MOWW Foundation (MOWWF) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to supporting youth patriotic education, civic education, JROTC and ROTC units, and scouting programs. MOWWF organizes national youth educational initiatives aimed at instilling leadership, civic engagement, and patriotism to foster a strong America.



The eighteen (18) participants of the MOWW National Youth Civics Summit 2025









Support the Summit

The NYCS is made possible through the generosity of donors to the **MOWW Foundation** (EIN 93-3140766).

To contribute, please visit
www.moww.org/nycs or

text NYCS to 44321

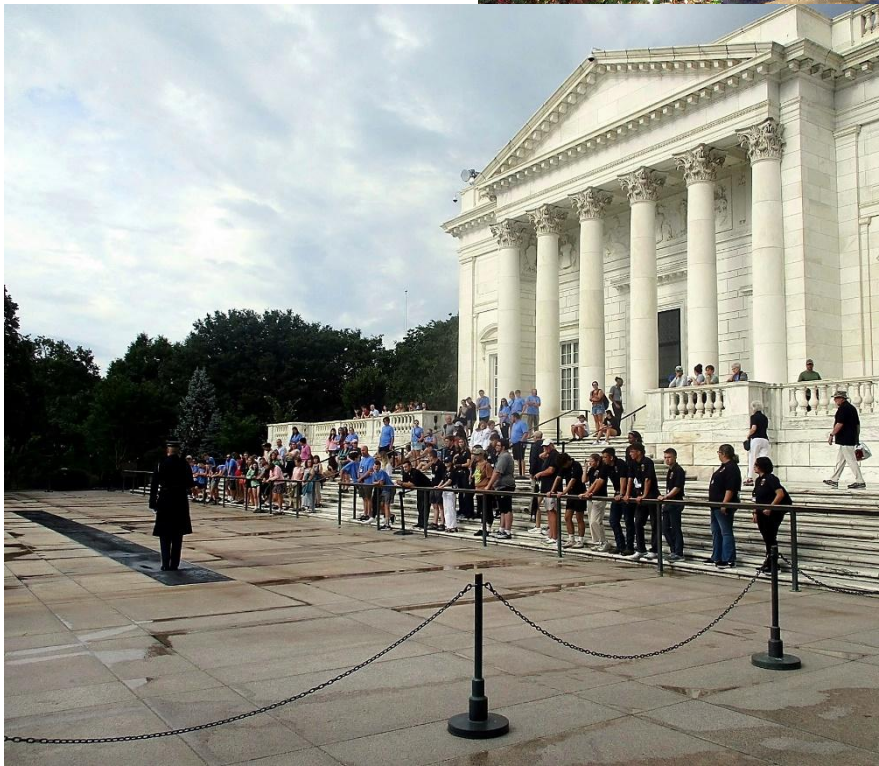
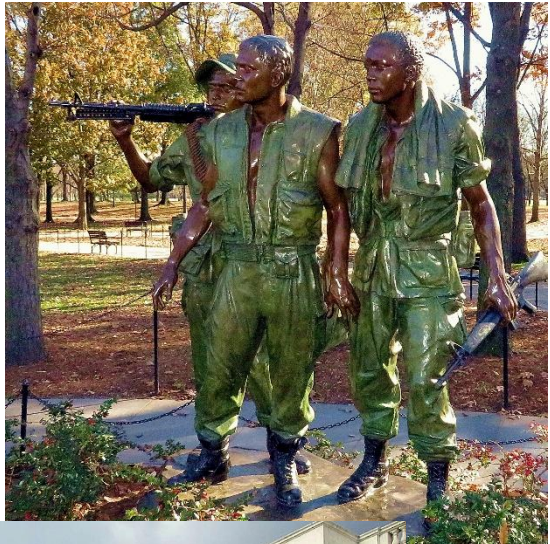
mowwfoundation@moww.org

(703) 683-4911 x 3

The MOWW Foundation

435 N. Lee Street,
Alexandria, VA 22314







The Inspiration



The 91st CINC's Initiative



In August 2022, at the start of my second year as CINC, and in an effort to address dwindling interest and membership in the MOWW, senior leadership developed a working theory that conjectured that highlighting our most important and prominent outreach programs

would increase the visibility of the MOWW within the veteran community, thereby increasing its attractiveness to officers seeking to volunteer their time.

With this hypothesis in mind, the concept of a National Youth Civics Summit (NYCS) was born, an *ad hoc* committee was established, and CAPT Ed Gantt was selected to lead the effort. The following is a testament to the vision of MOWW leadership. The final act has yet to be written.



Making it a Reality

The National Youth Civics Summit Committee

By NYCS Committee Chairman Ed Gantt

To offer an experience that could not be accomplished any other place in the world, other than in Washington, DC. To plant the seed of service in the minds of future leaders by putting them in close contact with people who serve, and/or showing them the many opportunities to serve our nation in uniform or as civil servants. To have something every MOWW Companion could point to with pride.

It was very clear early into the detailed planning there were two different tasks – fundraising and event planning. MOWW HQ staff hiring of an outreach program manager was instrumental to being able to execute on schedule.





The National Youth Civics Summit 2025 Committee

CAPT Ed Gantt, U.S. Navy (Ret.), MOWW VCINC – **Chair**

Col Bill Townsley, USAF (Ret.)

CAPT C. Philip Nichols, JAGC, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

Ms. Jenna Tomas, MOWW Outreach Program Manager

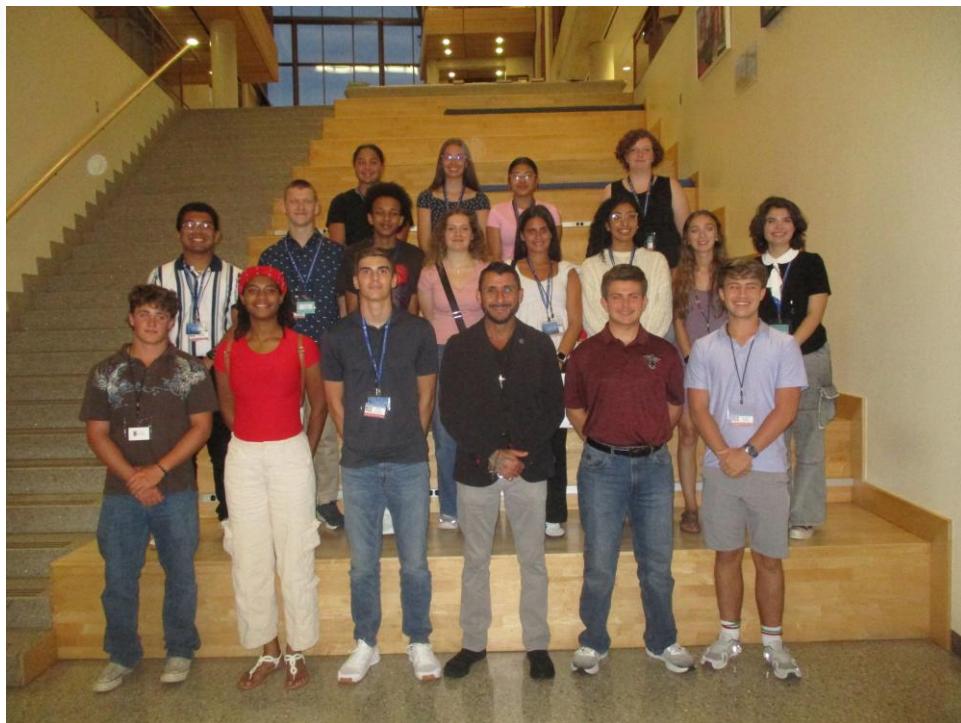
HPM Charles W. Bennett, Former Lynchburg Police Dept. Chief of Police , MOWW Historian General

LTC Steve Hodges, USA (Ret.), MOWW Region VI Commander

Mrs. Noreen Hodges, Clearwater FL Chapter and YLC staff

1LT Thomas D. Hart, USA (Fmr), Patriotic Education Chair, Sun City Center Chapter

Mrs. Peggy Hart, Sun City Center YLC Chaperone



Through Youth Development and Leadership

**Building the
Next
Greatest
Generation**





The MOWW National Youth Civics Summit 2025

The Participant Selection Process in 2025

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

- Eligibility was open to high school and homeschooled junior or senior level students of CY2023 to CY2025 who attended an MOWW YLC.
- Students were nominated by their MOWW Youth Leadership Conference Director or by their local MOWW Chapter.
- Nominated students submitted their applications to their area MOWW Region Commanders, who forwarded applications to the NYCS Committee by April 15, 2025.
- 20 students were notified of their selection via email beginning on April 30, 2025.



The MOWW National Youth Civics Summit 2025

The Participants



MOWW Region V

Jaylah Anderson
Grovetown, Georgia
MOWW Region V
High School Class of 2026



MOWW Region VIII

Ryan Baldon
Harker Heights, Texas
MOWW Region VIII
High School Class of 2026



MOWW Region I

Briann Gilbert
Bangor, Maine
MOWW Region I
High School Class of 2026



The MOWW National Youth Civics Summit 2025

The Participants



MOWW Region VIII

James Gonzales
Houston, Texas
MOWW Region VIII
High School Class of 2026



MOWW Region VI

Blake Jacobus
Lithia, Florida
MOWW Region VI
High School Class of 2027



MOWW Region VIII

Morgan Leet
Fair Oaks Ranch, Texas
MOWW Region VIII
High School Class of 2026



The MOWW National Youth Civics Summit 2025

The Participants



MOWW Region XIV

Emma Lehman
Kent, Washington
MOWW Region XIV
High School Class of 2025



MOWW Region VIII

Glyn McDaniel
Waco, Texas
MOWW Region VIII
High School Class of 2025



MOWW Region IV

Makayla Maray
Yorktown, Virginia
MOWW Region IV
High School Class of 2025



The MOWW National Youth Civics Summit 2025

The Participants



MOWW Region XIII

Mason Meredith
Colorado Springs, Colorado
MOWW Region XIII
High School Class of 2026



MOWW Region VII

Edward Misner
Madison, Alabama
MOWW Region VII
High School Class of 2026



MOWW Region V

Ellison Moore
Memphis, Tennessee
MOWW Region V
High School Class of 2026



The MOWW National Youth Civics Summit 2025

The Participants



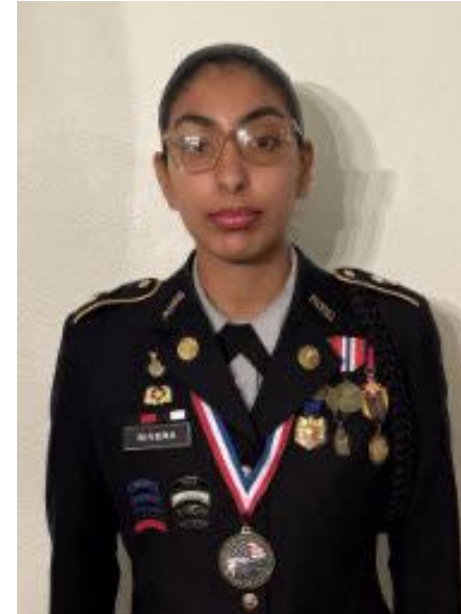
MOWW Region XIV

Jehu Perez Gonzales
San Diego, California
MOWW Region XIV
High School Class of 2025



MOWW Region VIII

Zane Pryor
Plano, Texas
Region VIII
High School Class of 2025



MOWW Region VI

Isabell Rivera
Lithia, Florida
MOWW Region VI
High School Class of 2026



The MOWW National Youth Civics Summit 2025

The Participants



MOWW Region IV

Valerie Ruano

Laurel, Maryland

MOWW Region IV

High School Class of 2026



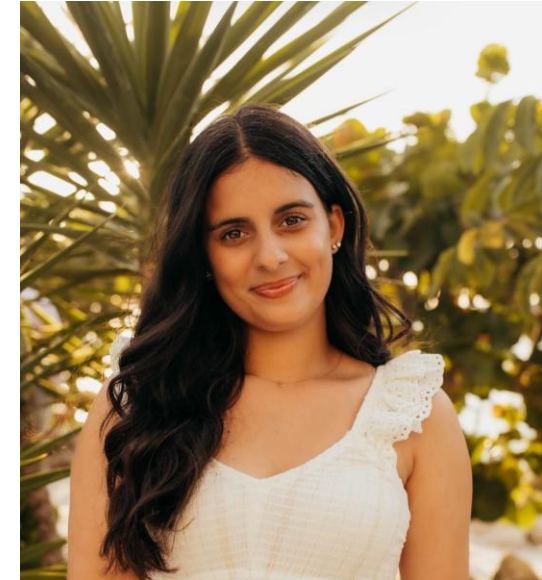
MOWW Region XIII

Vaughn Slivka

Monument, Colorado

MOWW Region XIII

High School Class of 2025



MOWW Region VI

Caroline Victoria

Tampa, Florida

MOWW Region VI

High School Class of 2026



Ensuring it Works

The National Youth Civics Summit 2025

Chaperones



MOWW PCINC Michael Okin,
MOWW Past CINC and
Chaperone



Julee Blanchard, Huntsville
YLC and NYCS-
experienced chaperone



Ed Gantt, NYCS Director



Deb Dombeck,
experienced YLC Director



Ralph Lewis, experienced
YLC Director



Seth Pilgrim, experienced
YLC Staff Member



JJ Coyne, experienced
YLC Staff Member



Thea Gaillard, MOWW
Wade Chapter Patriot



The National Youth Civics Summit 2025

The Schedule for the Week

2025 MOWW NATIONAL YOUTH CIVICS SUMMIT ACTUAL SCHEDULE								
	13-Jul-25	14-Jul-25	15-Jul-25	16-Jul-25	17-Jul-25	18-Jul-25	19-Jul-25	NOTES
MORNING	TRAVEL FROM HOME STATE – TRANSPORT TO	0800 NYCS KICK-OFF OVERVIEW OF THE WEEK'S ACTIVITIES 1040 TOUR U.S. CAPITOL 1030 OFFICE VISIT WITH CONG SELF, CINC AND TEXAS STUDENTS	0800 NYCS PLANNING MEETING WITH THE STUDENTS 0900 SERVICE ACADEMIES AND ROTC PRESENTATION, COL JOE FUNDERBURKE LUNCH ON CAMPUS 1100 CABINET LEVEL	1000 HOLOCAUST MUSEUM VISIT 1130 BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING - DEPT OF THE TREASURY -CNX	0900 ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY COLLEGE CAMPUS BUS TOURS: GWU, GEORGETOWN, 1130 LUNCH AT THE CAPITOL HILL CLUB 1330 OFFICE VISIT WITH CONG CRANK, CINC AND COLORADO STUDENTS	LINCOLN MEMORIAL, JEFFERSON MEMORIAL, VIETNAM WAR MEMORIALS, WWII MEMORIAL PENTAGON TOUR OF MUSEUM AREAS AND HALL OF HEROES WITH GEORGE CUSHMAN	CLOSING BREAKFAST RECAP AND LESSONS LEARNED – CNX DUE TO EARLY DEPARTURES, 0600, 0800, 1100, ETC.	
LUNCH	AMERICAN UNIVERSITY	1145 LUNCH AT THE U.S. CAPITOL CAFE	VISIT WITH THE ASST SEC OF TRANSP FOR RESEARCH & TECH, MICHAEL HALEM	LUNCH AT THE MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY			DEPART FOR HOME	
AFTERNOON	BOX LUNCHES FOR EARLY ARRIVALS CHECK-IN TO RESIDENTIAL LODGING	1330 WALK-THRU TOUR OF THE SUPREME COURT (NOT IN SESSION) AUDIENCE WITH THE MARSHAL WALK TO UNION STATION	1230 LIBRARY OF CONGRESS VISIT NATIONAL ARCHIVES VISIT - CNX THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE - WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY	1230 SMITHSONIAN VISITS IN SMALL SUBGROUPS: NATL AIR & SPACE, NATURAL HISTORY, AMERICAN HIST, AFRICAN AM HIST	THE COMMITTEE SYSTEM OF CONGRESS AND LOBBYING – RON PHILLIPS 1500 CONGRESSIONAL STAFF DUTIES – SHIPPEY WALKER, SEN CRUZ' STAFF 1515 RECEPTION ON CAPITOL HILL, ROA BLDG	LUNCH AT THE PENTAGON FOOD COURT		
EVENING	WELCOME RECEPTION AND DINNER WITH – SPEAKER: ROD RODRIGUEZ	DINNER ON CAMPUS STUDENT DINING FACILITY 1930 STUDENT TEAM ASSIGNMENT, LEADERSHIP EXAMPLES OF JFK AND REAGAN – CAPT DOMBECK AND CDR LEWIS	DINNER ON CAMPUS STUDENT DINING FACILITY 1930 CONSTITUTING AMERICA – SPEAKER, JAY MCCONVILE	DINNER ON CAMPUS STUDENT DINING FACILITY NYCS MEETING	NYCS MEETING FOR SURVEYS AND TRAVEL PLANNING	1830 USMC EVENING PARADE AT THE MARINE BARRACKS, 8TH & I WASHINGTON, DC		
LOCATION:	SUNDAY AMER UNIV	MONDAY AMER UNIV AM CAPITOL HILL	TUESDAY AMER UNIV AM NAT'L MALL PM	WEDNESDAY NAT'L MALL	THURSDAY COLLEGE CAMPUSES CAPITOL HILL	FRIDAY PENTAGON MARINE BARRACKS	SATURDAY	



The National Youth Civics Summit 2025

Sunday, 13 July 2025



Motivational Speaker on Leadership – Rod Rodriguez, President and CEO, Global War on Terror Foundation



The National Youth Civics Summit 2025

Monday, 14 July 2025

The U.S. Capitol, Supreme Court and Union Station

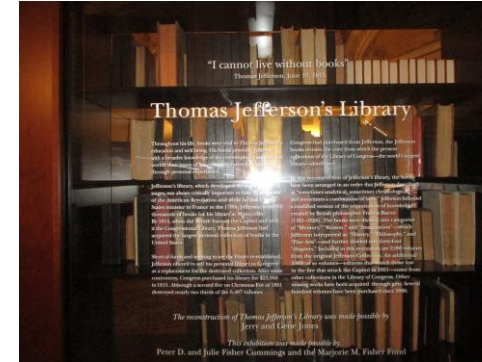


Office visit with Congressman Self and introduction to the Supreme Court by the Marshal of the Court



The National Youth Civics Summit 2025

Tuesday, 15 July 2025
AU Campus and the Library of Congress



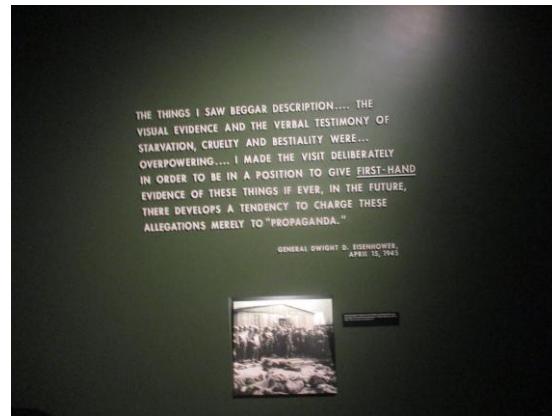
Visits to the Library of Congress, presentation on Service Academies/ROTC Scholarships and session with the Asst Secretary of Transportation



The National Youth Civics Summit 2025

Wednesday, 16 July 2025

The Holocaust Museum, Washington Monument
and the Smithsonian



Museum visits on the National Mall



The National Youth Civics Summit 2025

Thursday, 17 July 2025

Arlington National Cemetery and Capitol Hill



Office visit with Congressman Crank, Tomb of the Unknowns and MOWW Capitol Hill Reception



The National Youth Civics Summit 2025

Friday, 18 July 2025

The Lincoln Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Vietnam War Memorials and the Marine Barracks



Washington, DC National Mall and the Marine Corps Evening Parade



Helping Create the Future doesn't come Free

The cost of the NYCS 2025



Total cost - \$55,000

Total participants – 18 + 8

Cost per participant - \$3100

Impact – World Changing!



MOWW National Youth Leadership Summit 2025

MOWW Donor Organizations

Platinum Level – \$2,000 or more

MOWW Inc.

MOWW Hann-Buswell Chapter

BG Bultman Chapter

Youth Enrichment Foundation



MOWW National Youth Leadership Summit 2025

Contributing Chapters and Organizations

Platinum Level – \$2,000 or more

MG Meade Chapter

Clearwater Chapter

Hampton Roads Chapter

Robert R. McCormick Foundation

Maj Gen Wade Chapter

Joshua Chamberlain Chapter



MOWW National Youth Leadership Summit 2025

Contributing Chapters and Organizations

Gold Level – \$1,000 or more

Augusta Chapter

MOWW Region IV

Military Family Support 226

Wellcare

Silver Level – \$500 or more

MOWW Region VIII

Col Woolsey Chapter



MOWW National Youth Leadership Summit 2024

Companions and Supporters

Palladium Level – \$2,000 or more

Laura D. Stubbs

Deb Dombeck and Ralph Lewis



MOWW National Youth Leadership Summit 2024

Companions and Supporters

Platinum Level –\$1,000 or more

Charles Bennett

Ed Gantt

Michael Okin

Steve and Noreen Hodges

Russel Vowinkel

Thomas Greenwood



MOWW National Youth Civics Summit 2025

Companions and Supporters

Gold Level – \$500 or more

Victor Perez

Coy Ritchie

Charles Brantley

Silver Level

Bill Townsley

Dave Worley



“A primary object should be the education of our youth in the science of government. In a republic, what species of knowledge can be equally important? And what duty more pressing than communicating it to those who are to be the future guardians of the liberties of the country?” George Washington

"I think of a hero as someone who understands the degree of responsibility that comes with his freedom." Bob Dylan

"In the truest sense, freedom cannot be bestowed; it must be achieved." Franklin D. Roosevelt

“The message for American youth is that this is a great country and we need to make sure that we pass on a heritage, a lineage, of American exceptionalism to each and every one of you so that you can enjoy all the great liberties and freedoms that all the previous generations have had.” Allen West



**Would you like a copy of the
NATIONAL YOUTH CIVICS SUMMIT
2025 MOWW Convention Presentation
for your Chapter Meeting or Fundraising?**

This **PowerPoint** presentation, with narration, runs for approximately 25 minutes. There is also a 10-minute version. It can be sent to you on a USB Flash Drive. It is a unique way to familiarize MOWW Companions and the public about the MOWW National Youth Civics Summit. It is also a way to support this important project.

It will be shipped to you at no cost.

Contact

Charles W Bennett
MOWW Historian General at

LPDChief@aol.com

1-434-239-7357



**Many people say,
“I wish it would happen!”**

**Other people say,
“It really should happen!”**

**While a few dedicated people
make it happen!**



Working
together to
build the
Patriotic
Leaders of
tomorrow.



★ MOWW ★

MILITARY ORDER
OF THE WORLD WARS



NATIONAL YOUTH CIVICS SUMMIT



Striving to
transmit all the
ideals of the
Military Order
of the World
Wars
to Posterity,
under God, and
for our country.



Contacting the

MOWW National Youth Civics Summit Committee

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