



Data Collection

UNIQUELY YOU SUMMIT 2020

November 13-15

30+ States
450+ Black Girls
3 Days

the girls

UNIQUELY YOU SUMMIT 2020

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97% of girls surveyed reported feeling celebrated at the UNIQUELY YOU SUMMIT 2020.

99% of girls surveyed reported that they would recommend the UNIQUELY YOU SUMMIT to their friends.

95% of girls surveyed reported that #UYS2020 met their expectations.

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51% of girls surveyed cited being surrounded by Black girls their age during the UYS 2020 Weekend was among their favorite experiences of the weekend, using phrases like “it was fun to be with Black girls like me” or “being with my sisters.”

150 girls said being in their small [GXC] groups was among their favorite experiences of the weekend.

Tell us about your GXC experience!

It was really inspiring, and it really opened my eyes. - **Kailyn M.**

Miss Shannon Wilson did GREAT! She was very relatable and transparent, which made the space very safe and great. - **Tatiola S.**

Miss Shannon was so sweet, and I enjoyed being in her group. She took the time to hear each of us and our stories and I really appreciate that. - **Kelani R.**

I really felt connected with everyone even though we were online it felt very interactive. - **Jazmine L.**

I would like to share that it's the best program that a young female like me should be in. There's never anything you can't ask them. And they are super supportive. - **Anastasia A.**

Yes, I just want to say that I'm blessed that I was able to be a part of this great opportunity - **Paige I.**

I would love to share that I love and care for each and every one of the ladies that were in the Uniquely You Session. - **Alexis L.**

I had an amazing time and I got to meet many girls my age that have experienced the same things I have in life.
- **Akira Gatling**

Tell us about your GXC experience!

I loved every aspect of it! I am so sad to say goodbye. I hope I can connect with the girls at some time; we will try and stay in touch and make monthly check-ins with each other so that is something I am very much looking forward to. - **Jada O.**

Didn't know how to feel about it at first but as the days went on, we got more comfortable with each other and that made the experience more enjoyable. - **Amari R.**

It was amazing, I got to indulge on conversations I've been dying to have and perspectives I've been dying to hear. I'm walking away with a lighter heart and less baggage. - **JeVanni N.**

I am so grateful I did this. - **Ellie Nix**

I really feel like our group was able to comfortably open up and vibe with one another. There wasn't any animosity or awkwardness between us, and I feel like I have gained another group of friends. - **Natalie J.**

This is my first year experiencing this amazing summit. I have learned so much and my eyes have been opened to so many things of being a Black girl. Each presentation and discussion has allowed me to explore and learn that people who look like me, especially girls, can succeed and go beyond the limit. This program has allowed me to embrace how I appear and know my value. I am currently a junior in high school and plan on attending next year's summit as well, God willing. I would like to be apart of this great movement and help other girls out there as much as this has helped me! I just wanted to let you know that what you are doing is NEEDED for ALL Black girls and touches many lives!!
Peace and Love, stay blessed. - **Zharia Crawford (New Jersey)**

What speakers were you most excited about?

I was most excited about the Sisterhood, Solidarity & Oneness speakers because I wanted to hear their experiences with creating and finding communities.

- **JeVanni N.**

I was most excited to see Trinitee Stokes because she is someone I look up to.

- **Ayana B.**

I was most excited about Yara [Shahidi] because she has been a big inspiration of mine. - **Malani T.**

What did you love best about the Summit?

The small groups and the talks. So... all of it! I really loved the small groups because we dived deeper into the topics and we got to know some really cool people. - **Temilola S.**

Learning more about my culture and history. I also loved knowing as a Black girl, I can express myself and feel comfortable. - **Ameerah D.**

The impact that it had on hundreds of Black girls across the country. It was inspiring, powerful, motivating and overall awesome. - **Olamide A.**

Being around girls like me and sharing our common interests, goals, and opinions and how we are going to strive with our Black girl magic! - **Jada O.**

What were your favorite experiences?

I loved hearing and meeting SO many Black women who are intelligent, smart, religious, and cool people. I'm glad I'm walking away with new relationships and memories. - **Tatiola S.**

Understanding that I'm not alone and there are many Black girls to look up to. This Summit is my safe place and I'm so appreciative that I could be here. - **Ameerah D.**

I loved the weekend kickoff with DJ Lady FX! I also loved Dr. Yaba Blay's talk. I greatly enjoyed the talk about Sisterhood, Solidarity & Oneness. I enjoyed some of our small group sessions. I also enjoyed watching all the videos and hearing Seraiah Nicole's music. - **Niara B.**

Girls' Testimonials

I felt like I had a new group of sisters, not just the one that I have at home, Azmera Gebre. If any of my beautiful, Black sisters see this: I LOVE YOU! and I hope Octevia got 10/10 on that audition for America's Got Talent. - **Arriam G.**

I really enjoyed my experience during the girl exchange session. At first, I was uncomfortable because I have social anxiety, but they made me feel comfortable and gave me the option to type in the chat box. The experience was great, especially to hear other Black girls' views and perspectives on things and being able to relate. I'm glad I had a safe place to talk and knowing that I'm not alone.
- **Azaria L.**

I loved getting to know the girls and interacting whether it was in breakout rooms, lunch or scavenger hunts. It was so fun getting to be put in a community of beautiful Black girls. Going to a predominately white school I do not get these experiences so being in this is something I can take with me and look for more opportunities like this one; and learn from each other, grow with each other, and love each other. I HAD SO MUCH FUN, seriously, I learned and loved a lot. - **Jada O.**

Girls' Testimonials

I enjoyed my GXC group and the conversations we had. I also enjoyed the speakers, Dr. Blay, in particular; I truly enjoy conversations about colorism and was interested in the view of colorism through an expert's knowledge. - **Jaelynn P.**

I love all of the Black Girl Magic and Essence that was exuded throughout the weekend whether it was in GXC groups or the sessions with the speakers. - **Natalie J.**

I loved the fact that everything from this weekend was focused on Black girls and Black excellence. It made me feel even more comfortable in my own skin and create an even deeper love and confidence within myself. The music they played throughout the weekend was also amazing! - **Eryn D.**

How can we improve the Summit for next year?

Make the pajama party longer, so we can get more acclimated before the actual event starts. Also, I wouldn't mind doing this for two consecutive weekends. - **JeVanni N.**

parents &
caregivers

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95% of parents/caregivers surveyed reported that #UYS2020 met or exceeded their expectations.

47% of parents/caregivers surveyed reported wanting their daughter to be involved in a UYS program monthly, with 38% desiring bi-monthly.

99% of parents/caregivers surveyed reported they would recommend the UNIQUELY YOU SUMMIT to other parents and caregivers of Black girls.

Parent Testimonials

In 20% of parents surveyed, almost 50% of them cited noticing a change in their girls in the week since the Summit. The changes seen have been:

- ✓ More confident
- ✓ More vocal
- ✓ Empowered and motivated
- ✓ "She is more energetic, more excited. Her light is shining a little brighter."
- ✓ "Her mood has been "lighter"; a few days afterward she finally told me that she was struggling with the isolation of online schooling."
- ✓ "She spoke a lot about her experience, and I have overheard her talking to friends and her dad about it. Normally she would not share."
- ✓ "She sounds more affirmed, appreciated, heard by her peers and feels there is room to grow and be unapologetically a Black girl!"

Parent Testimonials

*She was very pleased with the summit. She made friends and was able to network with other girls. She calls them "her girls". At times she struggles with confidence, but I believe this summit has shown her that she is not the only to feel this way. It has reinforced what I teach her which is to love herself as a young beautiful Black girl. It gave her a comfortable space to share and feel. It is so important for our young girls to have a space like this one. - **Danielle S., parent of Ayanna R.***

*Although my daughter, Alyssa Cheatham, was not able to fully participate due to her last-minute schedule changes, she thoroughly enjoyed the portion of the program she did see! She loved the virtual sleepover and really enjoyed the Sunday girl chat with the actors and performers. I felt and saw the spark in her eyes, as they spoke about owning your Black Girl Magic and finding your tribe! I know she felt seen and heard. - **Sharra D.***

pilot program

In a pilot program with the **Newark Board of Education**, **68** middle school girls from **13** Newark, New Jersey schools attended the UNIQUELY YOU SUMMIT 2020.

As a part of their experience, the school's guidance counselors asked each girl to complete their own exit ticket at the conclusion of each day.

Newark Board of Education | Pilot Program

One 13-year-old said, "It was really Great and fun! But I am sad that we are done...I hope that maybe we would do it again or see each other again because I got to know a lot of people better and even made some friends. The people that made it work did a great job and I really appreciate and loved it!"
- Precious O.

Another said, "This was my first time experiencing this summit and I really am in love. The support, confidence, inspiration, knowledge; I can't wait for next year!!" - Olamide A., 13.

"This experience has taught me a lot and I am so grateful for this opportunity that I was given. These girls are amazing and very supportive. They share the same problems with me and share the same love for this as me. Thank you for everything." - Octevia P, 13.

#uys2020