Friends Upper School students have many opportunities to get involved in diversity work. We focus on cultivating student diversity practitioners through a variety of immersive experiences.

Conference Offerings

National Student Diversity Leadership Conference (SDLC)
Each year, Friends sends up to six students to the National Student Diversity Leadership Conference. Through written applications, student leaders are chosen to participate in an immersive experience that allows them to reflect on their identities, develop cross-cultural communication skills, and strategies for social justice initiatives that they will implement when they return to campus. Friends students have served as Peer Facilitators at past SDLCs. In addition, these students present their learning to the Upper School Faculty, often through an experiential activity.

Baltimore Student Diversity Leadership Conference
This conference is similar to SDLC, but is local to Baltimore. Each year, more than 10 students from Friends attend this conference. Some years, Friends students are also involved in the planning of some workshops.

Middle School Diversity Leadership Conference
Friends Upper School students were instrumental in creating this conference. It is an Upper School led diversity conference for interested Middle School students. Upper School students plan and facilitate the curriculum. This conference allows Upper School practitioners to deepen their facilitation skills and knowledge around diversity, equity, and social justice work.

Representative Positions

Board of Trustees Diversity Committee Student Representative
Two seniors report to a committee of Board members about the state of diversity at Friends. These students help inform the committee’s recommendations to the Board regarding diversity decisions/policies.

Equity & Inclusion Committee Student Representative
Two seniors report to a committee of faculty, staff, parents, and alumni about the state of diversity at Friends. These students help inform the committee’s diversity initiatives.

Other

Diversity and Social Justice Practitioner Training Course
This course focuses on the concepts of identity, diversity, equity, and social justice. Students have opportunities to reflect on their own identities through experiential activities. They learn different frameworks for understanding identity development, oppression, and cultural identifiers. Students also learn different dialogue facilitation skills and workshop building skills. They are often tapped as student facilitators for classes in all of the divisions and they plan US Convocation Day for Social Justice.

Extra Disciplinary Certificate in Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice
Students have the opportunity to earn an extra disciplinary certificate in Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice by fulfilling requirements in many categories. Students must have academic courses, co-curricular involvement and internship experience to earn this certificate. In addition, they must attend a minimum of five outside speaking engagements and find ways to present their work to the wider Friends community.