

# Surrey Youth AI Summit (SYAIS) — My Full Record

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*This is my complete record of the Surrey Youth AI Summit — everything I did, in the order I did it, with the real numbers. I'm writing it down now, right after the event, while it's all still fresh. The point is that even if I forget the details in six months, this brings all of it back. It's also the doc I'll pull from for university and scholarship applications, co-op and internship and job stuff, and my own website. Every number in here is backed by a real screenshot or file I actually have.*

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## The short version

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| <b>What it was</b>     | A one-day, no-code AI competition for high schoolers. Total beginners showed up, got put into teams, were each handed a real Surrey small-business problem, and used free AI tools to build a working website or chatbot to fix it — then pitched it to real judges. The tagline was "Build real AI. In one day." |
| <b>What I did</b>      | I started it and ran it. I did about <b>70% of the whole thing myself</b> , and around <b>90%</b> with my co-founder. I made the website, did all the planning, made the slides, got the sponsor and the speaker, ran the sign-ups, wrote the whole plan for the day, and handled every tiny detail.              |
| <b>When</b>            | Tuesday, June 23, 2026 — 11am to 5pm for students (I was there from about 9am to 5:30pm)  |
| <b>Where</b>           | The Fleetwood Park library, plus a back room for staging and the live scoring tally   |
| <b>Who ran it</b>      | The Fleetwood Park AI Club and the Panorama Ridge AI Club — all students, no company behind us  |
| <b>Main sponsor</b>    | Generation AI Inc. — gave us \$650, two scholarships, the judges and mentors, and the keynote speaker   |
| <b>Food sponsor</b>    | Fresh Street Market — donated the food (cake, cookies, muffins)   |
| <b>Keynote speaker</b> | Dr. Peter Ostafichuk — a UBC Professor of Teaching, won the Engineers Canada Medal for Distinction in Engineering Education in 2023, and is a <b>co-founder of Generation AI</b>  |
| <b>Sign-ups</b>        | <b>81 total</b> — 50 accepted, 30 waitlisted, 1 rejected  |
| <b>Who showed up</b>   | <b>About 70</b> people on the day   |
| <b>Schools</b>         | <b>14 schools</b> — 13 around Surrey, plus one from Abbotsford  |
| <b>The big deal</b>    | It was the <b>first youth AI summit in Surrey</b> . Nobody had done one here before.  |

**What I have to prove all this:** the live website, the full sign-up records, the survey answers, confirmation records across three different forms, the certificate designs, a group photo of everyone who came, the Instagram analytics screenshots, and a screenshot of the \$650 sponsor transfer.

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### 1. Why I did it

I run the AI & Innovation Club at my school, and after I built and deployed FleetBot inside the school, I wanted to do something bigger than just one school. The idea was simple but nobody around here had

done it: get students from all over Surrey into one room and have them actually *build* AI in a single day. Not sit and watch a panel. Not listen to a lecture. Walk in knowing nothing and walk out with a real working thing a business could actually use.

I made the promise to students really blunt on purpose: no coding, no experience needed, and you leave with something real — not a fake prototype, an actual tool. I teamed up with the Panorama Ridge AI Club so two schools were running it together, got Generation AI to come on as the main partner, and built everything from there.

As far as I can tell — and I literally Googled it — it was the first youth AI summit in Surrey's history.

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## 2. Who actually did the work (the honest version)

On paper I had a team of about ten students, and everyone had a job. In real life, most of it landed on me.

I did roughly **70% of the whole thing by myself**, and about **90%** counting my co-founder **Yuvraj**. Yuvraj's part was real and it mattered — he handled most of the reaching out to other schools, teachers, and clubs to get them to send students, and he ran one of the three workshops on the day. But a lot of the time, I'd give someone a task, they'd say "yeah I got it," and then it wouldn't get done, so I'd end up doing it again myself.

I'm writing that down honestly because it's actually the biggest thing I learned, not a complaint. **You can't just assume people will do the thing they said they'd do** — especially a volunteer student team during exam season and the start of summer. So I stopped assuming. I left extra time on every deadline in case something fell through, I kept a chart of who was doing what so nothing got silently dropped, and in the final week I just put all the important stuff through one person (me) and let everyone else help where they could. That switch is basically what got us across the finish line.

**Teachers who helped:** Ms. Perry (principal), Ms. Stusiak (our AI Club sponsor, who also judged on the day), Ms. MacDougall (librarian — got us the room and sorted the food), and Ms. Snead (bookings and admin).

**From Generation AI**, four people came on the day: Dr. Peter Ostafichuk (keynote + co-founder), Rukshan (the person I talked to the whole way through), Aruna, and Ken. They were the mentors and the judges.

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## 3. How I built it, from the very start

This is the actual order I did things in.

## Step 1 — The website and the sign-up form

The first real thing I built was the **website**, because it changed every single conversation that came after it.

Most school events don't have a real website. They have a poster and a Google Form, and that's it. I wanted something that looked legit. I built it using **Google Antigravity** (it's Google's AI coding tool — you tell the AI agents what you want and they write and put together the actual code) and I put it live on **Vercel** at `surreyaisummit.vercel.app`. It wasn't a flyer — it was a real site with an info page, an FAQ, and the **sign-up form built right in**.

Here's why that mattered so much: when Yuvraj or I reached out to a school, instead of writing a giant paragraph explaining the event, I just sent the link. They'd open it and see a real event with everything laid out and a sign-up button right there. It made us look serious, and it made the whole outreach way faster. Later the analytics showed **64 people tapped the link** to get to that site.

I also set up the Instagram (@fpss\_ai.club) as the place we'd post everything, and I made the poster as the thing people could share.

## Step 2 — Reaching out to schools

Once the site was up, we started reaching out. Between the two of us we contacted somewhere around **20 to 25 schools** — emailing AI clubs, teachers, and student leaders, and sending every one of them the website link. Yuvraj did most of this school-to-school stuff. That's how we ended up with students from **14 different schools** signing up — 13 around Surrey, plus one all the way from Abbotsford.

## Step 3 — Getting the sponsor and the speaker

I got **Generation AI** to come on as the main sponsor, and this was honestly the most important relationship in the whole event, because it came as one big package: **\$650 in funding, two scholarships** for the best students, **judges and mentors** for the day, and the **keynote speaker**.

The speaker, **Dr. Peter Ostafichuk**, is a UBC Professor of Teaching *and* one of the co-founders of Generation AI — so I got the money, the scholarships, the judges, and the speaker all from one place. That kept it clean and meant I wasn't trying to juggle five different relationships at once.

I also got **Fresh Street Market** to donate the food — cake, cookies, and muffins, including two "Good Morning" platters I arranged to pick up at 7am on the day, with a Costco run planned as a backup in case it wasn't enough.

## Step 4 — Figuring out everything that could go wrong

About two and a half weeks before the event, I sat down and went through the whole thing looking for everything that could blow up — basically the gap between what our posts were *promising* and what we'd actually locked in. Here's what I found and then chased down:

- **The room wasn't officially booked in writing yet** — and it had a limit on how many people could be in it. I made this my number one thing and got it confirmed.

- **The numbers didn't fit the room** once you added students + my team + Generation AI + teachers. This is the whole reason I had to do the accept/waitlist thing.
- **The food was promised on the website but not actually confirmed yet** with Fresh Street.
- **The \$650 hadn't been sent yet** — they needed me to send a cost breakdown first.
- **Consent for filming kids** — we were filming and posting, with minors, at a school, and nobody had handled that. I added a photo-consent checkbox to the forms and made a visible tag kids could wear if they didn't want to be in photos, so the photographer would skip them.
- **People might not show up** — a free event on basically the first day of summer break is exactly the kind of thing people flake on.
- **Adult supervision and an emergency plan** for ~70 kids over six hours.
- **Our own posters had mistakes** — typos, the event name was different on the poster than the official one, and the "limited spots" number was bigger than the room could actually hold. I fixed all of it before anyone noticed.

## Step 5 — Planning what the students would actually do

I had to plan the whole day around one hard fact: these kids would be beginners using free tools.

So I went and looked up the **free limits** on every tool ahead of time and built that into the instructions, so nobody would get stuck hitting a paywall halfway through their build. I told everyone to make their accounts at home the night before. The tools were **ChatGPT** (to think and write with), **Bolt** and **Lovable** (two no-code website builders — we showed Bolt, but they're so similar that kids used both), and **Chatbase** (for building chatbots).

The teaching part was **three hands-on workshops**, one for each tool:

1. **ChatGPT prompt engineering** — run by two of the club members.
2. **Bolt (the no-code website builder)** — run by Yuvraj.
3. **Chatbase (making your own chatbot)** — run by me. **Chatbase** is a tool where you build your own AI chatbot trained on *your* stuff — your documents, your website links, your text — and then you can put it on a site. It's basically making a custom GPT for one specific job. I taught everyone what it is, when you'd want a chatbot instead of a website, and how to actually set one up.

I also split the build into levels — a basic version everyone could finish, a normal target, and a stretch goal — and I wrote the scoring sheet, so the whole thing was figured out before a single kid walked in.

## Step 6 — Sign-ups, and the email mess

Sign-ups grew to **81 total**. The room had a hard limit and I knew some people wouldn't show, so I **accepted more than the room held on purpose** to land on the right number after no-shows. Final count was **50 accepted** (40 confirmed from the form + 9 pulled off the waitlist based on how keen they were to learn + 1 I added myself), **30 waitlisted**, and **1 rejected**.

**The one thing that actually went wrong:** I'd collected everyone's email on the forms and used a mail merge to send out the accepted / waitlist / rejected emails — and a big chunk of them **went to spam**

**or just didn't deliver.** So a bunch of kids who'd actually been waitlisted or rejected showed up anyway, because they never saw the email telling them they weren't in.

It only worked out because I'd left extra room on purpose — we had space, so instead of turning people away at the door, we just let them in, and that's part of how we got to about 70. But the real fix was to stop trusting one channel. I started pushing the important info out through an **Instagram post** too, added a **second contact field** to the forms, and in the end I sent the certificates through the **after-event survey** (where people typed their own name and email) instead of trusting that broken email list. Lesson I won't forget: never let one thing that can quietly fail be the only way something important gets through.

## Step 7 — The money

Generation AI asked me to send a confirmation email before they'd transfer, so I sent one to their official account (and CC'd Aruna) that spelled out the \$650 was sponsorship for prizes and supplies, and said I'd keep all the receipts. I also flagged that it was a little weird having sponsor money go into a student's personal account, and offered to run it through a parent's account instead for a cleaner record. The **full \$650 came through**, and I didn't buy anything until the money actually cleared, so every receipt would line up with what they had on record.

## Step 8 — Certificates

I made two kinds. One was a **participation + volunteer certificate** for everyone, which counted as **6 volunteer hours**, with a footer that said who was verifying the hours and a contact — so the hours would actually count for something. The other was a **winner certificate** with a line that changed depending on the award (1st, 2nd, 3rd, or People's Choice). To save time on the day I dropped the printed certificates and did them all **digital**, made afterward from the name and email people typed into the survey (which also meant no spelling mistakes). The ~\$100 I saved went into extra snacks and drinks instead.

## Step 9 — The last three days (June 20-22)

With three days left I changed how the team worked — everything important went through one person so we'd stop doing the "assign it, wait, find out it's not done, redo it" thing. In those three days:

- **Lunch got folded into the build time** (eat whenever; "no lunch is being served, bring your own" went everywhere so nobody was confused).
- I finished the **five business challenges** as full, detailed write-ups (more on those below).
- I **rebuilt the Discord** into clean channels — welcome and rules, how to submit, a submissions channel, the People's Choice poll, a help channel, and announcements — with a pinned template for how to submit.
- I built the **sign-up database** in Claude Cowork but then **printed it on paper** for the check-in desk, so check-in didn't depend on the Wi-Fi working — and the paper list doubled as the headcount in case we had to evacuate.
- The **slide deck** ended up at 37 slides, and I caught a mistake where the deck said one tool and the student materials said another.

- **Monday June 22:** the whole team did a physical walk-through, I did a Costco run for the gift cards and snacks, printed everything on the school printers, charged all the devices, and confirmed Generation AI was coming.

## Step 10 — The actual day (Tuesday, June 23)

How it went: I set up early → Generation AI arrived and we welcomed them → kids checked in → opening, rules, and the photo-consent heads-up → the **three workshops** → split everyone into teams and randomly gave each team a business → a **roughly 3-hour build phase with lunch in the middle** (with time warnings as the clock ran down) → submissions closed on Discord → **science-fair-style judging** where the judges walked around to every table → **Dr. Ostafichuk's keynote around 4:15** while we tallied the scores in the back → top 3 did quick demos + the People's Choice poll → awards and the big group photo → cleanup and we sent Generation AI off.

## Step 11 — After it was over (June 24 on)

- Posted a **20-image Instagram carousel** showing off the scholarship winners, the mentors, and all the students.
- Read through the **survey** — the biggest takeaway was that most students said **Dr. Ostafichuk's talk was the best part of the day.**
- Sent **thank-you messages** to the principal, the librarian, the admin staff, Ms. Stusiak, Generation AI (and shared the survey result with them), and Fresh Street Market (with photos and the final numbers).

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## 4. How the competition worked

### The build

Kids made their own **teams of about four** (the poster said "pick your own group"), and we swept up anyone who came alone or in a pair into a full team. Each team got **randomly given one of five Surrey businesses**, and two teams were allowed to get the same one — because the scoring is about how well you do it, not whether you got a unique prompt.

**The five businesses** were full write-ups: **Hazelnut Café & Bakery, BrightPath Tutoring, Fern & Foliage Plant Shop, Spice Route Food Truck, and Fade Theory Barbershop.** Each one had the business's backstory, the owner, the numbers, the actual problems they had, the kinds of customers they get, how the brand should sound, a big table of facts, and a list of 20-25 common customer questions you could feed straight into a chatbot. On purpose, none of them told you the answer — the kids had to decide for themselves whether to build a website, a chatbot, or both, and what problem to even go after.

## The judging and the awards

- **1st, 2nd, and 3rd place** were scored by the **four Generation AI judges plus Ms. Stusiak** on a printed sheet, science-fair style. **My team didn't score anything** — I did that on purpose so nobody could ever say "oh the organizers' friends won."
- **The scoring sheet was out of 100:** understanding the problem (30), the solution and how creative it was (30, and it didn't matter which tool you used), how usable the thing actually was (20), and the pitch and teamwork (20). The whole idea was to reward solving a real problem well, not showing off something complicated.
- **The two Generation AI scholarships** (Best AI Implementation and Emerging Innovator) went to individual students from any team, picked by the mentors watching kids work during the build plus a private write-up of who did what on each team. We kept *how* we were judging this a secret so nobody would just perform for the judges.
- **People's Choice** was a separate student Discord poll on the top 3 (you couldn't vote for your own team).
- The **final demos** were the top 3 doing a quick ~3-minute pitch off one laptop I'd already loaded everything onto, with a backup laptop ready.

## The prizes

- **1st: \$200, 2nd: \$140, 3rd: \$100** in gift cards, split between the team, plus the two scholarships as the big individual awards, plus a People's Choice award.
  - **Everyone** got a **digital certificate** and **6 volunteer hours**.
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## 5. The hardest calls I had to make

Good ones for when someone asks "tell me about a tough decision or a problem you solved":

- **Keeping the judging fair.** I made sure the judging was done by the Generation AI people and a teacher, not by my team, and I made the student poll only count for People's Choice. That's the single thing that kept anyone from saying it was rigged.
- **The email going to spam.** When the acceptance emails landed in spam, I stopped relying on just email — I used Instagram, a backup contact field, and the survey to get info out. And because I'd left extra room, the people who showed up anyway didn't have to be turned away.
- **Too many people for the room.** I handled it with accept → confirm → waitlist, and turned away anyone who hadn't signed up, instead of just cramming the room.
- **Planning for no-shows.** I accepted more people than the room held on purpose, because a free event at the start of summer is going to have flakes.
- **The one-laptop problem.** The final demos all ran off one laptop, so I had a backup laptop and screenshots ready and tested it the day before — so a dead link could never wreck a team's moment.

- **Consent for filming kids.** A checkbox on the form plus a tag kids could wear so the photographer would leave them out.
  - **My team not delivering.** I put all the important stuff through one person so everyone else just had to help, instead of waiting on work that might not show up.
  - **Check-in without Wi-Fi.** I printed the sign-up list so check-in didn't need internet — and that paper list was also our evacuation headcount.
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## 6. What actually happened (the numbers)

- **About 70 people** came, from **14 schools** (13 around Surrey + 1 from Abbotsford).
- **81 sign-ups total** (50 accepted, 30 waitlisted, 1 rejected) — a real thing I managed, not a guess.
- It was the **first youth AI summit in Surrey.**
- Total beginners built **actual working AI things** — websites and chatbots — for real local businesses in one afternoon.
- **Two Generation AI scholarships** went to standout students, cash prizes to the top 3 teams, a People's Choice award, and **6 volunteer hours + a digital certificate for everyone.**
- **The survey said** most kids thought **Dr. Ostafichuk's talk was the best part.**

**The Instagram side** (as of late June 2026, and still going up since the recap only went out a few days ago):

- The **5 summit reels got around 13,500 views total** (the early teaser ~4.7K, the launch ~2.6K, the reminder ~1.5K, the thank-you ~1.5K, and the recap **~3.2K in just its first 4 days**, which was climbing the fastest).
  - Over 90 days, the account got **22,062 views**, reached **4,227 accounts**, had **549 profile visits**, and **64 people tapped the link** to go sign up.
  - Put simply: the posts got seen → 64 people clicked through → 81 signed up → about 70 actually came. I also made all the posts myself using ChatGPT, and made the slides and the poster myself.
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## 7. The small stuff nobody sees

This is the part I'll forget first, so I'm writing it down — all the unglamorous things I personally did, because the event doesn't happen without them:

- Set up the mic and tested it.
- Made all the signage and taped it up.
- Did the 7am food pickup from Fresh Street.
- Did the Costco run for gift cards, snacks, and drinks.
- Printed everything on the school printers — rosters, business briefs, scoring sheets.
- Charged every laptop and device the night before.

- Cleaned the sign-up list by hand to figure out the real school count and remove duplicates.
- Chased down the room booking, the sign-offs, and every little approval.
- Held off on buying anything until the sponsor money cleared, and kept all the receipts.
- Built the Discord, the forms, the database, and the scoring tally.

None of it is impressive on its own. But I did almost all of it, and that's the difference between an event that happens and one that doesn't.

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## 8. What I learned

- **A real website makes everything easier.** Building it first meant every message to a school was just a link to something that looked legit — that did more for sign-ups than any single post.
  - **People won't always do what they say.** I learned to plan around that — extra time, a chart so nothing gets dropped, and one person owning the important stuff. That's a real lesson I'll use forever.
  - **Never let one thing that can fail be the only path.** The spam mess taught me to always have a backup way to get the important stuff through.
  - **Fair judging beats a fancy prize.** Having the sponsor's people judge instead of my friends meant nobody could call it rigged.
  - **Plan around your limits first.** Free-tool limits, a small room, a hard 5pm end, a sponsor that isn't technical — building all that into the plan early is what kept the day from falling apart.
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## 9. Quick version (for resumes, LinkedIn, applications)

I started and ran the Surrey Youth AI Summit — the first youth AI summit in Surrey — and did about 70% of the work myself (around 90% with my co-founder). Specifically I:

- Started and ran a student AI competition that brought in **about 70 students from 14 schools**, run by two school AI clubs together.
- **Built the event website myself** (with Google Antigravity, put it live on Vercel) with the sign-up form built in, and used it as the main thing I sent schools to get people to register.
- **Got Generation AI to sponsor it** — \$650, two scholarships, the judges and mentors, and the keynote — and handled all the back-and-forth and the money side.
- **Got Fresh Street Market to donate the food.**
- **Ran the Instagram** — the summit posts got around 13,500 views and sent 64 people straight to the sign-up page.
- **Planned the entire day** — three workshops, five real business challenges, a 37-slide deck, the Discord, the scoring sheet, the scholarships, and the certificates.
- **Handled 81 sign-ups down to 50 spots**, and when my acceptance emails went to spam, fixed it on the fly so nobody got turned away.

- **Did all the small stuff too** — the mic, the signage, the printing, the 7am food pickup, charging the laptops, and cleaning the sign-up list by hand.
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## 10. Proof I have

### Stuff that exists right now:

- The live website (the Vercel link)
  - All the sign-up records, plus confirmations across three different forms
  - The after-event survey answers (including the "the talk was the best part" result)
  - The accept/waitlist/reject sheet (81 sign-ups → 50/30/1) and the school breakdown sheet
  - The certificate designs (participation + winner)
  - A group photo of everyone who came, plus other event photos
  - Instagram analytics screenshots (22,062 views / 4,227 reached / 64 link taps, and each reel's views)
  - The screenshot of the \$650 sponsor transfer
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*Last updated: June 2026. This is my real record of the Surrey Youth AI Summit — the actual numbers, the actual decisions, and an honest account of what went wrong and how I handled it. Final numbers: ~70 came, 81 signed up (50 accepted), 14 schools, \$650 sponsorship, 2 scholarships, prizes of \$200 / \$140 / \$100, 6 volunteer hours each, ~10 teams, 5 business challenges, 3 workshops, 37 slides, and ~13,500 views across the 5 summit reels.*