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Photo by Natalie Paramore.

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Shot on location at Spider House, 2908 Fruth St., 512.480.9562, [spiderhouse.com](http://spiderhouse.com).

Leith Pink Blossom swing dress, \$65, available at Nordstrom, 2901 S. Capital of Texas Hwy., 512.691.3500, [nordstrom.com](http://nordstrom.com).

# DROP THE MIC

We listen in on a candid conversation with some of Austin's youngest radio hosts.

**BY ALESSANDRA REY, PHOTO BY KEVIN GARNER**

The oldest show on Austin's KOOP Radio is also, coincidentally, the one staffed by the station's youngest members. *Youth Spin*, on air since 1996, is a high-school-student-run radio program that offers young women and men a place to speak their mind, share their interests and comment on the world. Miranda Flores, Raaya Alim, Maddie Cole, Apol Ferrante, Sammi Fahnestock and Ray Wichterich are the females behind the show.

Tune in to 91.7 FM Fridays from 6 to 7 p.m., or stream the show online at [koop.org](http://koop.org), and you'll hear the group interview bands and authors, or discuss current events and music, adding their personal commentaries along the way.

We asked the young women behind *Youth Spin* what they've learned from hosting the program so far and how they think those lessons will help them later in life.

## THEIR NOTES

**Miranda Flores:** "I learned how to mess up. The first time [I was on air,] I freaked out. It was a hard and weird experience, and it made me more aware. But I think it'll be helpful in life to know how to mess up."

**Ray Wichterich:** "I've learned that there will always be a community that accepts you as you grow and change. Everyone here is connected in some way, whether it's a passion for music or just being around people."

**Sammi Fahnestock:** "This is my first year in *Youth Spin*. I've learned in my brief time here that it gives me a time to speak about my interests. For the longest time, I just couldn't speak to people, but I learned how to bring up my hobbies."

**Raaya Alim:** "It just helped me figure out who I was as a person. I got to get over my fear of speaking in public. Sometimes I still stutter, but then I realized that no one cares about that. Being able to speak is important because it has made me a better person."

**Maddie Cole:** "I'm autistic and that led to me being picked on a lot in middle school. But at *Youth Spin*, I've learned that I can actually do things. I can make contributions and share my writing. I used to feel like I couldn't help out, but now I have a lot to say."

**Apol Ferrante:** "I feel like I lose interest in things quickly. But I know that I always want to do something that gets my thoughts and my feelings out there. *Youth Spin* helps you express who you actually are and say anything, you know, besides the things you can't legally say on the radio."

(From left to right) Raaya Alim, Maddie Cole, Sammi Fahnestock, Ray Wichterich and Miranda Flores. Not pictured: Apol Ferrante

