



YouthAction NYC Community Leadership Course

Dear Applicant and Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Citizens' Committee for Children is a multi-issue child advocacy organization that seeks to improve the lives of children to ensure that every child is *healthy, housed, educated, and safe*. Since 1944, CCC has convened, informed, and mobilized New Yorkers to make the city a better place for children. CCC's approach to child advocacy is fact-based and joins the best features of public policy advocacy with a tradition of citizen activism. YouthAction NYC engages young New Yorkers from diverse backgrounds in fact-finding and advocacy. Through participation in YouthAction NYC, young people become deeply involved in addressing the needs of children and families in New York City, capitalizing on their idealism and realizing the power of their individual and collective voices.

The YouthAction Community Leadership Course (YCLC) is offered to high schools students interested in affecting positive change in their communities. The YCLC aims to transform socially conscious and committed youth into empowered advocates for children, youth, and families. Each term, twenty-five public and private school students are immersed in the study of a particular topic where they collaboratively examine social issues of consequence. *This year's topic will be "Youth Safety"*.

This spring our exploration of youth safety issues will include street polling, interviews with influential elected officials and community leaders, and visits to important community organizations. The process culminates with participants formulating policy recommendations and presenting them to community members and policy makers. The course ultimately develops the civic competency of young New Yorkers, giving them opportunities to participate in public policy development, voice relevant experiences and ideas, and gain exposure to the different realities of their peers. Upon completion of the course, participants are invited to further develop their knowledge and skills by attending weekly sessions with YouthAction NYC members (other high school student graduates of the YCLC) – engaging in extensive community-based advocacy campaigns.

This spring the YCLC begins on Monday, March 5 and concludes on Monday, May 14, consisting of 10 sessions that run from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Participants will meet on Mondays at the office of CCC, located at 105 East 22nd Street (seventh floor), at Park Avenue South in Manhattan. Site visits to programs in the city will be incorporated into the allotted time for selected sessions. There will be adult supervision at each session, while in transit, and at all activities. Dinner and snacks are provided each week. In addition to the YCLC being offered free of charge, participants may receive community service credit for their regular participation (*students who miss more than 2 sessions are not eligible for community service credits*). The YCLC requires commitment; *participants are expected to be on time and attend all ten sessions*. Further, we ask that participants prepare for sessions by reading background materials and reflecting on prior sessions. They should be ready and able to discuss their thoughts, observations, and critiques of subject matter with their peers.

We thank you for your interest in the YouthAction NYC Community Leadership Course. If you have any questions about the program please feel free to contact Laura Jankstrom, CCC's YouthAction Coordinator, by phone at (212) 673-1800 X 20 or by email at youthactionnyc@cccnyc.org.

Sincerely,

Jennifer March-Joly
Executive Director

Laura Jankstrom
YouthAction NYC Program Coordinator