



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. The YouthAction NYC program, a CCC initiative, combats the trend toward declining levels of community and civic participation by engaging young New Yorkers from diverse backgrounds in social 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 from all grades 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 community where they collaboratively examine social issues of consequence.

This fall our exploration of community-based 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 members of the New York City Council at City Hall. 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 fall the YCLC begins on Monday, October 6th and concludes on Monday, December 15th, 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. 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.

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 me by phone at (212) 673-1800 x20.

Sincerely,

Remi Holden
YouthAction NYC Program Coordinator