

YOUTH4EDUCATION

2015-16 Lead Activist Grant Application

Presented by



national youth leadership council

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

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Youth4Education is a youth solution to end educational inequity. 58 million children around the world do not attend school. It's not because school is too hard for them, or because they don't want to learn. It's because they cannot afford to pay for school, they don't identify with the content, or they suffer from discrimination.

This is education inequity.

Poor education and failure to engage students that are marginalized have created a global learning crisis. Just in the United States alone, 1.2 million youth will drop out this year; that is one dropout every 26 seconds. Their chances of living a life in poverty will more than double when they make the decision to drop out.

The Youth4Education grant program will assist 22 Lead Activists, ages 15-21, to use their passion to take action and to ensure that all youth have an equal chance at tomorrow. Grant recipients will receive:

- Summer leadership training, July 9-14, 2015, that challenges recipients to lead service-learning projects that address educational inequity in their school communities throughout the 2015-16 school year. Grant includes travel to and from the Audubon Center of the North Woods, Sandstone, Minn.
- Year-long support to implement your project including up to \$500 financial support.
- Recognition as a leader in education equity.
- Total grant value is \$3,000 per Lead Activist.

In addition, selected projects may be showcased at the 27th Annual National Service-Learning Conference.

Grant recipients arrive onsite for the summer training with a range of leadership experiences and leave with:

1. The ability to work together with people of different races, ethnicities, genders, geographies, and socioeconomic backgrounds.
2. Allies to support their leadership development and service-learning action plan.
3. The tools and knowledge to create equitable change in their communities.
4. Motivation to take civic action for the common good.
5. An enhanced awareness of the issues that drive education inequity.

The Facts:

- Education inequity costs governments \$129 billion a year.
- It affects the most disadvantaged students.
- Ten percent of global spending on primary education is lost on poor quality education that fails to support teachers and fails to ensure that all children, regardless of their circumstances, are in school and learning.
- As of 2011, 250 million children – 130 million of whom are in school – were not able to read, write, and do simple arithmetic.
- One in four young people in poor countries is unable to read a single sentence. With this many children and youth not learning basic skills, they lack what they need to get decent employment and lead fulfilling lives.
- Service-learning is an innovative educational strategy that can improve every youth's learning outcomes and advance the international equity agenda.

Visit www.youth4education.org to learn more.

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Qualifications of a 2015-16 Youth4Education Lead Activist:

- Have an understanding of and commitment to the [Youth4Education](#) campaign goals.
- Have an adult mentor committed to the [Youth4Education](#) campaign goals.
- Ability to attend the overnight leadership training in Minnesota, July 9-14th.
- Pledge to complete a service-learning project addressing educational inequity during the 2015-16 school year.
- Exhibit leadership qualities:
 - Inspires other young leaders
 - Shows empathy and compassion
- Ability to commit time to year-round learning opportunities and support, including online education, conference calls, etc.
 - *Note: The amount of time required for a Lead Activist per month averages approximately 10 hours (this figure **does not** include the summer training, National Service-Learning Conference attendance, or local project meetings at the Activist's home site).*
- Enrolled in high school or pursuing a GED during the 2015-16 school year.
- Between the ages of 15-21.

Application Process:

- **May 20:** Deadline for application receipt
- **May 27:** Selection announcement
- **June 3:** Deadline for all acceptance packet materials to be returned to NYLC (except medical form for leadership training; due **June 13**).

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Policies and Expectations

General Code of Conduct for leadership training:

- Respect for self and others. Be open to diverse opinions and differing viewpoints.
- Challenge yourself and your fellow Lead Activists.
- Participate fully. Be on time, be fully present, listen generously, stay engaged, speak your truth, experience discomfort, and expect and accept non-closure.
- Build respectful relationships. New friendships are encouraged; no sexual or romantic contact will be allowed.

Expectations:

- Attend all monthly education events via the Generator School Network, conference call, webinar, or other communication platform.
- Attend all meetings (at least once per month for one and a half hours).
- Complete and execute all activities for your action plan.
- If you are not able to call-in or attend an education event or meeting you **must** contact the assigned Advisor *before* the meeting.

Service-Learning Expectations:

All Lead Activists are expected to recruit 6-10 peers to help complete a quality service-learning project throughout the 2015-16 school year that addresses educational inequity. Lead Activists will review project plans with the NYLC Programs team and make updates as needed.

Public Policy Advocacy Expectations:

All Lead Activists are expected to share the results of their projects to key elected officials in their community. Lead Activists will also receive training from policy experts from government/nonprofit industry on effective advocacy tools.

Evaluation Expectations:

All Lead Activists are expected to complete quarterly grant evaluation reports, with support from their adult mentor and/or NYLC Staff Advisor, as well as a final report that will be due **August 31, 2016**. A grant report template will be provided to all recipients.

Meeting Commitments:

Upon acceptance, all Lead Activists are committing their participation to the following:*

Summer Leadership Training (Minnesota)	July 9-14, 2015
Education Events (monthly)	August 2015 - August 2016
Public Policy Advocacy Activities (Various times throughout the year)	October 2015 – April 2016
Evaluation (Quarterly)	July 2015 – August 2016
Final Report	August 31, 2016

** The amount of time required for a Lead Activist per month averages approximately 10 hours (this figure does not include the summer training, National Service-Learning Conference attendance, or local project meetings at the Activist's home site).*

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I. Personal Information (as of the 2015-16 school year)

Please type or print neatly

Name (first middle last): _____ T-Shirt Size: _____

Current Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Home phone: () _____ Cell phone: () _____

School: _____ Grade/Year: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Preferred method of contact

- Cell phone
- Home phone
- E-mail
- Text message

Age (on September 1, 2015): _____

The following information is voluntary and confidential. We collect this information for the sole purpose of maintaining equal opportunity for all applicants.

Ethnic Background:

- Hispanic origin
- Not of Hispanic origin

Race: Select all that apply.

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- White
- Other (please specify): _____

Gender: _____

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II. Adult/Mentor Information

Adult/Mentor Name (first middle last): _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____

Email Address: _____

Home phone: () _____ Cell phone: () _____

School/Organization: _____

School/Organization Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Preferred method of contact for your adult mentor:

- Cell phone
- Home phone
- E-mail

I agree to be the adult mentor for the applicant throughout the 2015-16 school year:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Information

Parent/Guardian(s) Name(s): _____

Parent/Guardian Home or Work Phone(s): _____

Cell phone(s): _____

Parent/Guardian(s) E-mail(s): _____

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II. Resource Self-Assessment

Select all that apply.

1. **What area/s are you most confident in your ability to facilitate?**
 - Introduction to service-learning
 - Energizers, icebreakers, and team-building activities
 - Discussions around equity with an adult audience
 - Fundraising opportunities
 - Partnership building
 - Event planning
 - Public speaking
 - I am not yet confident in these areas of facilitation

2. **What support systems are currently in place to support students within your school?**
 - A system for monitoring student attendance and academic performance.
 - Tutoring/homework help.
 - Access to a challenging curriculum for all students. (Is there an effort to ensure that all students participate in a challenging curriculum? Is there an effort to eliminate non-challenging programs?)
 - Programs to inform/prepare students for post-secondary education opportunities (such as AVID).
 - Summer learning opportunities.
 - Out-of-school or after-school learning opportunities (such as arts, athletics, leadership, or service opportunities, etc.).
 - School climate initiatives (such as conflict resolution, safety initiatives, or other initiatives that emphasize building connectedness to school and contribution among all youth.
 - Professional development aimed at training teachers to close the achievement gap (You may have to check with your teachers or school administrators.)

III. Essay Questions

Limit your response to a max of 150 words per question. Attach on a separate piece of paper with your response.

1. What educational need are you most likely to address in your school through the Youth4Education campaign? What impact do you hope to make?
2. What efforts would you take to share Youth4Education updates/information with your school community?
3. How have you grown through engagement with your school community? How has this engagement changed your understanding of leadership, if at all?
4. Peer Engagement: How might you plan to engage your peers in planning a service-learning project upon returning home from the summer leadership training? Identify the potential youth leaders and/or project team members and the roles and responsibilities of each.
5. Adult Mentor Support: How will this project engage your adult mentor? Identify their potential role and responsibility. Why do you believe this adult mentor is best suited to support you and your leadership goals?
6. [Generator School Network](#): A requirement of this grant is that you complete a service-learning project to be uploaded to the GSN. How will you use other online platforms to showcase your service-learning project?
7. Partners: What community/school/business partners/funders would you hope to involve in your service-learning project? Describe their roles and contributions.
8. Barriers: Describe any potential barriers or challenges you anticipate over the course of your role as a Youth4Education Lead Activist and how you expect to address them.

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IV. Requirements

Meetings will be held **once a month on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:00pm (Central Standard Time)**.

Does the monthly Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm CST meeting time work for you?	YES	NO
Do you have access to a smart phone or computer?	YES	NO

Please check the following boxes stating your availability and commitment to these grant requirements:

- I am available to attend the Youth4Education summer leadership training in Minnesota on July 9-14, 2015.
- I understand that I am expected to attend all monthly education meetings.
- I understand that I must recruit a minimum of 10 of my peers to complete a service-learning project throughout the 2015-16 school year.
- I understand that I must complete all civic action activities.
- I understand that I must complete and submit all Youth4Education quarterly evaluation reports and the final grant report.
- I understand that I must upload my project to the GSN.
- I understand that I must work with NYLC's Program team to design, develop, execute, and improve my Service-Learning Action Plan.

V. Signatures

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT:

I have read and understand the commitments listed above and will honor them upon my selection to serve as a 2015-16 Youth4Education Lead Activist grant recipient.

Additionally, in the event that my summer travel arrangements are changed or canceled after giving NYLC written approval to book travel, my parent/guardian and I will be responsible for all associated cancellation or change fees.

To that effect, my application is completed to the best of my abilities in full disclosure. I understand that failure to complete my grant application or submit any required registration forms (if applicable) will result in disqualification for consideration.

Applicant name (please print): _____

Applicant signature: _____

Date: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION: *(If applicant is under 18 years of age)*

If selected, I agree to allow _____ (applicant name) to participate as a 2015-16 Youth4Education Lead Activist grant recipient. I have read and understand all the requirements of the grant, including the responsibility of any change or cancellation fees associated with travel to the summer leadership training.

Parent/Guardian name (please print): _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

Date: _____

National Youth Leadership Council

www.nylc.org

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Please make sure you have attached the following:

- Completed Application
- Essay Questions
- Resume (if you have one)
- Applicant Signature
- Mentor Signature
- Parent/Guardian Signature

Please email, mail, or fax your completed application by

Wednesday, May 20 2015 to:

National Youth Leadership Council
Attention: Youth4Education Selection Committee
1667 Snelling Avenue North Suite D300
St. Paul, MN 55108

Fax: (651) 631-2955

Email: yac@nylc.org

Questions? Contact NYLC at 651-631-3672