

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

The **Youth Empowerment Program (YEP)** is a nine-session fellowship for teens in grades 9–12 that builds community leadership skills. Participants learn how to identify local needs, develop action plans, and put those plans into practice. The program concludes each year with the YEP Summit, where fellows showcase their work and celebrate their achievements.

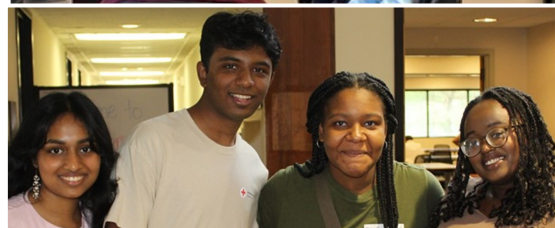
Program Structure:

- Multi-year Program
 - Tier One (First-Year Scholars) - Focuses on strengths-discovery, leadership vision, and defining community issues.
 - Tier Two (Second-Year Scholars) - Emphasizes refining, designing, and implementing the opportunities identified in Tier One while furthering their leadership.
- Monetary stipends for participation and completion.

Objectives & Outcomes:

Through YEP, youth become civically engaged, realize their true potential, and assume leadership roles. As a result of YEP, participants will:

- Improve their well-being while increasing their leadership capacity.
- Build the skills to communicate, speak publicly, collaborate, and network to build and improve their community.
- Recognize and analyze local needs and issues while learning strategies to address those needs through action.



... increasing leadership skillsets to address community issues ...

Methods & Outputs:

Using a strength-based leadership approach, participants work independently to develop a leadership vision based on their individual talents. Using an asset-based community approach with an "Appreciate Inquiry" framework, they work collaboratively to define community issues, discover what makes each an issue, and dream | design | deploy sustainable solutions.

Why It Matters:

- **Youth Voice:** Youth become active change-makers.
- **Leadership Development:** Builds confidence, public speaking, and critical thinking.
- **Policy Awareness:** Equips participants the skills to advocate on future community initiatives.
- **Cohort Style Learning:** Encourages collaboration & network building.

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