Youth Crossroads
GUIDE SUPPORT INSPIRE

Position Title: Youth Development Intern
Status: College Level Intern
Reports to: Ashley Shropshire, Associate Director of Youth Development
Stavros Kossenakis, Middle School Program Coordinator
Contact: ashleys@youthcrossroads.org, 708-484-7400 x 051
stavrosk@youthcrossroads.org, 708-484-7400 x 042

Youth Crossroads Mission

Youth Crossroads supports youth and their families, guiding them through life's challenges, and inspiring them to discover new opportunities for personal development, healthy relationships, and positive community involvement.

Youth Development Goals

Youth development programs at YC are based in positive youth development concepts and place an emphasis on empowering youth through opportunities to develop new skills, create positive relationships with peers and caring adults, develop a sense of independence and self-esteem, give back to their community, explore their interests, and ultimately, have fun!

Goals of Youth Development Internship

- Learn about positive youth development and its applications in after school programming (PYD)
- Develop skills in effective lesson planning and creating developmentally appropriate activities for middle and high school programs (LESSON PLANNING)
- Develop an understanding of large group facilitation techniques and apply these during intern-led activity days and regular programming (LEADING ACTIVITIES)
- Develop skills in building supportive, trusting relationships with youth in program (RAPPORT)
- Develop skills in conflict resolution and behavior management (INTERNPERSONAL)
- Gain an understanding of how a community non-profit functions, both internally and within the surrounding community through engagement in other YC events and offerings (NON-PROFIT)

Role Responsibilities

- Attend week-long agency orientation and training (FALL INTERNS ONLY).
- Attend week-long Youth Development Department orientation and training (ALL TERMS).
- Engage in weekly supervision with supervisor. Active participation in supervision includes bringing in questions, concerns, successes, conflicts, connections with schoolwork/training, and more to discuss. Interns should keep a journal with reflections and questions (if not already required by coursework).
- Create lesson plans that can be used at intern's specific site/age group. Apply concepts of positive youth development, adolescent development, youth interest, and program enrichment offerings to inform lessons.
- Apply knowledge of large group facilitation skills when facilitating activities at program.
- Apply rapport-building skills to develop mentoring relationships with youth in program
- Act as a positive adult role model for all youth in program.
- Support program staff in facilitating program, managing challenging behaviors, planning activities, chaperoning fieldtrips, and completing other necessary daily tasks.
- Maintain communication with other team members, especially site staff, program coordinators, and associate director.
- Develop a fundraiser to support the One Step Ahead Youth Development Scholarship (SCHOOL YEAR INTERNS ONLY).
- Take initiative to support in other areas of the agency. This could include attending agency outreach events, planning family engagement nights, attending all-staff meetings, etc. Opportunities will vary and will be shared with as much notice as possible.