

Youth Program for Law Enforcement Agencies

Created by: NDAA YLC



Table of Contents

Introduction	Slides - 3,4, 5
Application Process	Slide - 6
Locations to explore for the programs listed	Slide - 7
Dialogue Between Youth	Slides - 8, 9,10
School Year Program	Slides - 11,12
Summer Program	Slides - 13, 14, 15
Other recommended Youth Programs/InternShips	Slide - 16
How to market These Programs	Slide - 17





INTRODUCTION

This curriculum was created by a NYC Youth Leadership Council (YLC) working with the National District Attorneys Association's (NDAA) Juvenile Justice Division (JJ-NDAA).

JJ-NDAA is working on initiatives to build and improve relationships between youth and law enforcement. Youth input is critical to this initiative.

This YLC is comprised of 27 youth from more than 10 high schools and 1 college.

The YLC met bi-monthly during the 2023-2024 school year to create this curriculum.



Curriculum Design:



- Meet the needs of cities of **all** sizes
- Provide different options for implementing the curriculum, recognizing that communities across the country have *different* needs, youth populations, and resources
- Designed to build & improve relationships between youth and police by creating a formal structured program whereby youth and police interact in a **positive**, **educational**, **safe**, and **fun** setting

- Presentations by police departments (by police officers themselves or by guest speakers on topics of interest to youth (selected by the YLC)
 - Role and responsibilities of police officers
 - Drug and alcohol prevention
 - Violence
 - Driver safety
 - Careers
 - Mental health
- Provides a structure for programs
 - One-time events or a series of events
 - Internships
 - Long-term
 - Short-term

For all programs, the YLC suggests implementing an application process
NEED

1. Parental consent to participate
2. Injury waiver forms regarding specific activities



Application Process

Requirements

- Personal information (name, age, gender, etc)
- Transcript and GPA
- One page essay on why you want to participate
- 3 skills or contributions (one paragraph each)
- Optional:
 - Test Scores (SAT, PSAT)
 - Recommendations
 - Extracurricular activities

Process

- Once the application is completed and you are selected, interviews will be conducted. Successfully passing the interview will allow you to participate in a tour (in person or virtual) before you begin.



Locations to explore for the Programs Listed:

Police Departments

Schools

Libraries

Town Halls

Community Centers

Places of worship (where permitted)



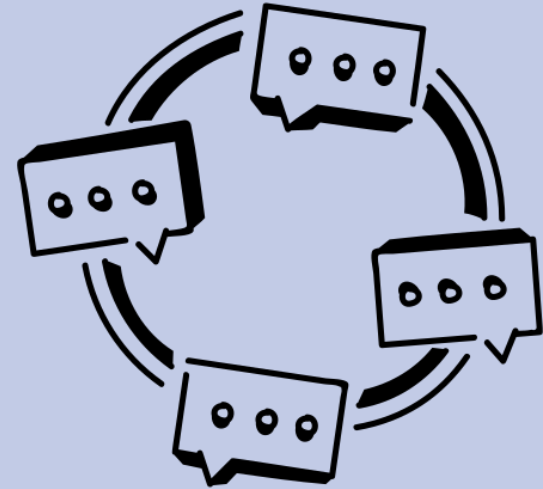
Creating a dialogue between youth and police: common youth questions:

1. What steps are being taken to ensure fair and unbiased policing in our community?
2. What is being done to ensure police are treating community members fairly?
3. Can you explain what to do if the police ever stop me?
4. What are my rights when being questioned or searched?
5. How can youth get involved in community policing efforts?



Creating a dialogue between youth and police: continued

6. What community efforts can be organized to create a harmonious space between police officers and youth?
7. How did your perspective of police officers change before and after you became one?
8. How do stigma and prejudice affect policing?
9. What advice would you give to other women wanting to join the police force?
10. How do you mentally and physically manage?



How officers can prepare for dialogue with youth

Officers should be prepared to discuss:

- Concerns about negative interactions with youth/community members; bias; and police brutality.
- What trainings officers attend regarding bias, fairness, and interactions with community members.
- What youth should do when stopped by police.
- What programs and opportunities are available to youth within the police department and in the community.
- The importance of positive community relations.
- The importance of communities having trust in law enforcement.
- How youth can succeed in law enforcement and other careers.



October–May Program

Age Eligibility 14-18: If students want to return for a second year, consider asking carefully screened 16 year-olds to mentor younger students in the program.

Roles and Responsibilities of Police Officers:

- Basic safety-how officers stay safe
- What life is like as police officers
- Police and Youth Interactions
- Drug Prevention
- Drunk Driving Prevention
- Anti-Violence Initiatives

Planning Principles:

involves learning about all different aspects of police work in a classroom/conference room setting (can also be done virtually in places where transportation, weather, or lack of physical space, etc. is an issue)
youth attend bi-weekly

program content starts out very general and becomes more specific

students demonstrating emotional maturity can shadow officers in the performance of some work where it is safe to do so

Team-Bonding Lessons Interactive Activities (spread out over the course of the program)

Police officers and youth do home education activities: cooking, sewing, etc.

Police and officers do arts and crafts

Organize a donation drive (food, prom dresses, clothing, children's books, etc.)

October-May Program

Life-Skills Lessons

Financial Literacy and College and Career Planning (These can be caught by internal Police Department speakers or guest speakers (local college representatives, high school guidance counselors, career counselors, military recruitment representatives, etc.)

- Financial Literacy- (Taught before the college lesson) Resource: FDIC: Money Smart for Young People
- How the City/Town/County Budget process works
- College AND college alternatives
- List of popular scholarships for students planning to apply for college
- How to avoid/minimize college debt
- Military Service and scholarships and aid given to students who serve in the military

Safety Lessons:

- Self-defense lessons
 - Speaking up and reporting illegal actions
 - How to avoid danger
 - Street awareness
 - How to take public transportation; safety on buses/trains
 - How to get home safely alone
 - Dangers of smoking and vaping
 - Drug and alcohol prevention (Partner with other non-profit organizations such as those who focus reducing drug use through stories of young people)
 - Weapons prevention
 - What to do when friends are doing something you do not want to
 - How to get out of unsafe/uncomfortable situations
 - Scam prevention lessons
 - CPR lessons/CPR certification-
 - Mental Health Awareness
- officers can share their experience and provide tips for what helped them when they were stressed
- trauma and stress lessons and how to aid it; include police officer's personal experiences
- how mental is dealt with in different systems-police, prosecutor, other lawyers, etc.
- have a counselor speak about how teens can take care of themselves and what help is available

*** To supplement officers should go into schools and do fun activities that all students can enjoy, to build connections. Doing fun activities is more effective than presentations for building connections between youth and police.

Summer Program

Planning Principles

- Interactive-do mock scenarios about situations police officers encounter
- Two-month program; weekly meetings
- Split participants into two cohorts
Split between older teens and younger teens (14-16, 17-18)
- Two cohorts meet the near the program's end to engage in a competition or big project
- Carefully selected older teens can become mentors-what is their role

Structure of program/age eligibility

- Ten students per one police officer/certified person in charge
- High school students
- 16-17 years old are allowed to apply to become a mentor guiding the younger students

Field Trips:

- Shadowing an officer who remains in the station house/precinct/office for a day
- Visits to the District Attorney's Office (if available)
- Visits to courthouse

Summer Program

Interactive Activities

-Police officers and youth do home education activities: cooking, sewing, etc.

-Police and officers do arts and crafts

Organize a donation drive (food, prom dresses, clothing, children's books, etc.)

-Establish a community garden to cultivate fruits, vegetables, and flowers to encourage healthy eating habits.

-Make sandwiches that can be donated to the homeless

Internship (can also be offered during other times) 16-17 years old

- 1 year of experience with this program

- 3 to 4 weeks long

- Help officers plan lessons for the program so that there is youth input

- Teach self defense tactics (Teens should not have the ability to operate guns or any lethal weapons)

- Host field trips with officers during one of their surveillance trips around the neighborhood (when safe to do so)

- Offer shadowing under different factions of the police department

- Education on the legal system, rights and responsibilities, understanding contracts, and the justice process

- Interactive sessions with law enforcement officers discussing "dos and don'ts" during encounters with police

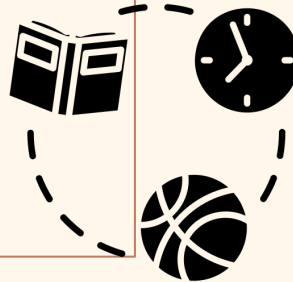
- Discussions on key legal issues affecting youth

Summer Program

Recreational Time to Build Bonds Between Officers and Youth

Participants:

- Playing basketball
- Dance lessons
- Wig-making
- Card-making connections
- Clean up a park or other community space
- Recycling project/recycling community event
- Board games



Work Based Learning:

- How to do a resume
- Time management

Competition:

- Physical competitions; example - team relay competitions

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING YOUTH PROGRAMS/INTERNSHIPS

Internship Recommendations for Police Departments and Other Entities

- Provide experience in different areas, not just one internship; allow youth to switch fields during the internship.
- Offer hands-on experience in the legal system, government agencies, nonprofits, law enforcement, and community organizations.
- Offer community service at local courthouse or other locations
- Have one focused on police and journalism and provide experience aspects of both fields.
- Offer shadowing opportunities with lawyers, judges, and other authority figures.
- Have short-term session internships such as during school breaks.
- Do a spreadsheet on existing internships in other fields that can be provided to students, parents/guardians, and organizations that work with youth.



How to Market These Programs

-Promotion through social media, schools, community-based organizations that serve family and youth, libraries, clergy members, etc.

-Create a documentary about the program; involve youth in deciding how to advertise program and how to recruit; have youth talk about the program to get other youth interested in it.

