



Summer Leadership Program 2010 Frequently Asked Questions

What is The City School?

The City School is a vibrant and unique youth organization in Boston that brings together teenagers from Boston's diverse neighborhoods and outlying communities in programs that combine creative education and critical thinking about social justice issues with hands-on leadership, learning, reflection and action.

Our goal is simple yet powerful: to transform lives and communities by helping young people embrace difference, tackle issues head-on, reflect, act and give back. Our model of youth work demonstrates how we educate ourselves and others to make meaningful change in the world around us.

What does the Summer Leadership Program do?

The Summer Leadership Program provides 60-70 diverse teenagers across Greater Boston with an exciting, powerful, and fun summer. Our program provides these young people with more than enough opportunities of growth within community building, self rediscovery, and leadership skills. Summer Leadership Program students take part in so much from action projects, internships at local nonprofits, and challenging seminars in order to transform themselves into powerful voices for change.

What is the time commitment?

The Summer Leadership Program begins with a mandatory two-night retreat starting Tuesday July 6th and ending Thursday July 8th. Then for the next six weeks participants are with the staff on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:45am to 5:00pm. Their schedules for Tuesday and Thursday internships are set individually with the Internship Mentor, but students generally have 6-8 hours of internship work each day. The program concludes in mid-August, with presentations on Monday and Tuesday August 16th and 17th, and graduation on Wednesday August 18th.

Will my student do homework this summer?

Yes. Our seminars frequently have homework assignments or research, and we encourage summer participants to take ownership over their education here. The community action projects generated by the students also require committed work outside of program time in order for them to be successful. To graduate, each student is required to write and submit a final paper at the end of the summer.

Where are the permission forms and the paperwork?

The student brochure, which includes the application and details, can be found on our website. During the group interview process, students fill out supplemental paperwork. In order to be considered for the program, students must have a completed application (including recommendation letters and essays) within two weeks of their group interview date. Please make sure to complete all forms and deliver them personally or by mail to The City School by the deadlines indicated.

What events am I invited to this summer?

You are welcome to visit the Summer Leadership Program at almost any time; you may simply call the Program Director to let us know. In addition to the regular weekly schedule, we have several special events that we encourage you to attend. We look forward to having parents, guardians and mentors visit us and get involved as much as possible!

Family Orientation	Monday July 5
We Rise Up Celebration	Friday August 13
Seminar Presentations	Monday and Tuesday August 16 & 17
SLP Graduation	Wednesday August 18

Does the student receive a stipend?

Yes, we commit that each student will receive at least a small stipend over the summer for their active participation and successful completion of each week in the program. We disburse stipends each Friday afternoon. Some student stipends are paid through partnering organizations including the Boston Youth Fund and the Private Industry Council.

How does SLP handle transportation?

For many years the City of Boston provided our summer program participants with a monthly bus/train MBTA link pass during July and August. However in the summer of 2009, due to budget cuts, we were not able to offer MBTA passes. At this time we do not know whether we will be able to offer MBTA passes for July/August 2010.

What is the tuition for the Summer Leadership Program?

There is no formal tuition. However, the City School invests \$5,000 for every student that attends the Summer Leadership Program. With that, **we ask every family to contribute financial support in an amount they can afford.** Some parents can contribute \$50; others have generously given up to \$5,000. We will ask you to pledge your contribution upon your child's acceptance to the program, and ask that you pay half of your pledge before the program start date and the remainder over the summer. We accept checks, Master Card and Visa.

How will I know how well my student did in the program?

If you have questions about your child's participation as the summer program is in progress, feel free to contact the Program Director. We are always glad to discuss student progress and future goals. Your active participation helps us work more effectively. At the end of the summer your child will receive a letter of evaluation from his or her seminar teacher. Many of our students use these letters as part of their college and job applications.

What does The City School offer my student after graduation from the program in August?

Our mission is about long-term leadership development. We want to see our summer graduates develop and succeed, so we stay in touch to provide support for the future. Although nothing is required after graduation in the summer, we offer a strong Graduates Program that provides a wide range of activities.

In Fall 2010, all SLP graduates will be invited to apply for up to 14 year round paid youth leadership positions at The City School. There are also many unpaid leadership and personal growth opportunities for graduates of the summer program. There are plenty of ways to stay involved!

The City School also runs and offers other community programs for high school teens: Youth Outreach Weekends, the Prison Empowerment Project, and a girls group called Rose from Concrete. You can find our more information about these programs on our website: www.thecityschool.org

Other Questions?

Please call the Co-Director, Seth Kirshenbaum (617) 822-3075 x13, or email him at seth@thecityschool.org.

THANK YOU!