



Mission:

EYEJ drives social justice reform by empowering young people to advocate for change.

Vision:

An equitable and inclusive world.

YODJ: Youth Online Discussing Justice Group Partnership

Background

The coronavirus pandemic hasn't altered EYEJ's mission to engage Cleveland's youth in vital social discourse and empower them to become advocates for change. Discussion Series groups are still meeting on a monthly basis, virtually, through a new program called Youth Online Discussing Justice (YODJ). Like the in-person Discussion Series, YODJ affords public school students in grades 6 through 12 the opportunity to meet regularly with trained professionals to engage on a wide array of topics of direct utility and genuine meaning, in a judgement-free setting. At this time, EYEJ has a relationship with 13 schools and four recreation centers in Cleveland.

Youth Online Discussing Justice (YODJ) connects students in grades 6 through 12 with necessary resources for day-to-day life and puts them in direct engagement with diverse professionals trained in the development of emotional learning. Guests including local community members, peers, and any one of 650 other volunteers meet with students in a safe, intimate environment that encourages honesty on difficult subjects. Curriculum has been tested over time to be of practical value and prepare students for school and the future. The 10-week program consists of seven weeks in a Discussion Series and three weeks in a Reflection Event.

Volunteer Speakers and Discussion Coordinators work together to present a non-lecture style, 1 hour 45 minutes session, (1 hour with students and 45 minutes of pre and post work with the EYEJ team) where they and the youth engage in issues through discussions, activities, and reflection. In an effort to directly impact school attendance, reduce suspensions, and amplify youths' voices, our topics address the areas of self-love, strategies for achieving confidence, respect for others, advocacy and civic engagement, and community strength.

Opportunity

For Five Hundred Dollars (\$500), your team will join EYEJ for a 2 hour service experience participating in an online Discussion event. Volunteers will act as Speakers and Coordinators facilitating discussions on topics like Conflict Resolution, Health and Wellness, Entrepreneurship, Job Readiness, Money Management, Community Relationships, and more. We will provide all the training required – no previous experience necessary!

Using a pre-written curriculum, you and your employees will have conversations on social justice with teens and preteens.

Our curriculum ties in critical thinking and social-emotional skills, mindfulness exercises, discussion activities, and the art of "Science and Storytelling" to utilize the expertise and experience from your field as well as your own personal stories while you engage in meaningful and authentic discussion with these young people!

Solution

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Our reports indicate that 95% of students who evaluated the sessions agree that YODJ has impacted them in the day and that 90% of volunteers agree that the discussion from YODJ was impactful for the students they worked with. With over 70% of our students being bullied and 50% being actively recruited by gangs, 100% of the youth we work with report they want change in their communities now. More than ever it is important, valuable, and easy to make a difference in the lives of young people in our community!

Put your Volunteer Time Off or Service Hours to good use in this impactful discussion program. Your time in the program will be well spent!

Features

- \$500 sponsorship
- Two hour Commitment
- Virtual Reflection
- Flexible Dates, Times, and Topics
- Custom Training Provided (1 Hour)- No Previous Speaking or Topic Experience Required!

Benefits

- Corporate Responsibility
- Team Building
- Youth Engagement & Impact
- Volunteer Reward Program
- Transformative Volunteering

EYEJ



Youth
Council

