

Parent / Guardian Authorization Form

The mission of the YMCA of Greater Seattle is to build a community where all people, especially the young are encouraged to develop their fullest potential in spirit, mind and body. We are committed to providing developmentally and culturally appropriate programs for youth. These programs are based on the YUSA Black Achievers motto. Our curriculum framework includes group mentoring/ life skills, college preparation, service learning, business tours/trips, and social development.

Designed for Youth:

The YMCA of Greater Seattle Black Achievers Program is based at the Meredith Mathews East Madison YMCA. With the program components delivered both on site and at Garfield, Franklin, Cleveland, and Rainier Beach High Schools, we offer high school youth opportunities to explore career options, develop leadership skills, prepare for college, and participate in service learning and social activities. Through caring relationships with local business professionals and high quality programming, Youth Achievers learn to set educational goals, understand professional standards, and strengthen developmental assets.

Group Mentoring / Life Skills

Group mentoring/life skills is designed to encourage youth to develop healthy relationships with adults. Participants will learn specific skills needed for self efficiency as well as employment. This component will provide structured and informal opportunities for youth to spend time with positive role models and engage in activities that will prepare them for independent living. Resume writing, interviewing, budgeting, and credit management are just a few of the life skills that will be introduced.

College Preparation

Preparing for College will assist youth and their parents in understanding and navigating the college application process. Participants will practice test taking strategies for college entrance exams while exploring additional resources available to assist in satisfying the student's potential. There will be numerous opportunities to engage in college campus visits which may entail not only campus tours, but also admissions and financial aid workshops. Participating seniors are eligible to apply for scholarships through the YMCA of Greater Seattle endowment funds.

Service Learning

Service learning provides experiences that engage students in meaningful community service activities. The value of this component is to allow students to assist surrounding neighborhood residents and organizations, and develop amongst themselves, a sense of purpose. With this opportunity students may begin working towards the sixty mandatory community service hours required by Seattle Public School District, for graduation.

Business Tours / Trips

By participating in tours to local corporations and businesses, youth are allowed to explore a company and its work environment on a first hand bases. In this, they will develop adult relationships and inspire a stronger relationship between the community and the business sector.

Social Development

Through program activities and experiences, our participants will learn to set high expectations for themselves, strengthen their cultural competence and self-esteem, improve their skills in planning and decision making, and acquire an optimistic view of their personal futures. Program staff and volunteers will integrate/model these values during program delivery.

I give permission for my child to participate in all activities, including field trips, climbing walls, overnights, swimming and to be transported as authorized by the YMCA. I give permission for the YMCA to use any pictures of my child for future promotional purposes. I give permission for the YMCA Black Achievers Program to request and receive the current academic records of my child, _____.

(Participant's Name)

The school may directly send the information to the YMCA, and or share the information to the YMCA Program Director.

I have read and understood the application, and I have completed the form to the best of my abilities.

Parent or Guardian signature _____ Date _____