

HERE IS WHAT SOME STUDENTS FROM PREVIOUS CLASSES HAVE SAID ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

"Youth Leadership Pinellas has been a great way to learn more about the community I live in. By going to a variety of places, I've learned a lot about what goes on in the community behind the scenes. I also got to become friends with about twenty other people who I never would have known otherwise. Youth Leadership was a great experience and I would recommend it to anyone interested in his or her community."

-Jackie

"I enjoyed Youth Leadership Pinellas because I was able to experience behind the scenes many of Pinellas' government agencies and private companies that make Pinellas tick. I met peers who were also interested in the leaders of the community and who I otherwise wouldn't have met. I am glad that I took advantage of this opportunity and I'm glad that the YMCA and Leadership Pinellas have made it available to people my age."

-Justin

"My experience with Youth Leadership Pinellas was very interesting and exciting. I met many people my age that were fun to be around and made my class so much fun. Each of the program days that we went on was very informative and different than anything I had ever done before. You really got to see what goes on behind the scenes of places that you would not usually be allowed to go to."

-Merideth

"Youth Leadership Pinellas was a great experience that really helped me learn a lot about my community. The opportunity to meet leaders and discuss their successes with them is a great one. Over the course of the year, I learned so much and will never forget it."

-Whitney

APPLICATIONS

Applications can be obtained from Guidance Counselors at Pinellas County high schools; the YMCA of the Suncoast at 559-0500 or www.ymcasuncoast.org; or Leadership Pinellas at 585-8889 or www.leadershippinellas.com.

2008-2009 CLASS SCHEDULE

November 2	Retreat
December	Government Day
January	Health and Human Services Day
February	Education Day
March	Business/Media Day
April	Criminal Justice
May	Graduation

REMINDER

Students are expected to participate in all sessions. Members missing more than four hours may be ineligible to graduate.

All class participants must attend the retreat.

SELECTION PROCESS

An application must be completed and submitted by the deadline to be eligible for consideration. A Selection Committee reviews the applications to ensure that members reflect the community at large and possess the attributes of leaders. Applicants will be interviewed by a team of community volunteers and will be notified promptly. Members are evaluated on the basis of the overall class dynamics as well as individual merits.

TUITION FEES

The student participant cost is \$90. Scholarships are available when need exists. Youth Leadership Pinellas is committed to being open to all qualified participants regardless of ability to pay.

Applications may be delivered or mailed to:

Stephanie Zaragoza

YMCA of the Suncoast – Greater Ridgecrest

1801 119th Street North

Largo, FL 33778

727 559-0500

www.ymcasuncoast.org

APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 6, 2008

INTERVIEWS: October 21-23, 2008



A program of



and



Youth Leadership Pinellas

PURPOSE

The Youth Leadership Pinellas Program seeks to provide information on community resources and issues, develop an excellence in leadership, build teamwork skills, and foster involvement in community services for a diverse group of high school students.

PROGRAM

Youth Leadership Pinellas (YLP) is a joint program of Leadership Pinellas and the YMCA of the Suncoast. Leadership Pinellas is non-partisan and in no way is a political activist group. The daily operation, class organization, and program management of Youth Leadership Pinellas is managed through a partnership with the YMCA of the Suncoast.

Youth Leadership Pinellas is a seven-month program, operating from November through May. Participants meet for five full day sessions, plus an orientation retreat and graduation event. The program is run separate from any school-sponsored program. Students are responsible for making up any and all work missed during the school day and for excusing the absence.

Dialogue is created between established and potential leaders of diverse backgrounds, including business and professional persons, plus leaders of government, education, etc. By coming face-to-face with community leaders and proactive spokesmen in these various areas, graduates of Youth Leadership Pinellas are better prepared to assume leadership roles on their own.

A wide range of topics exposes participants to the decisions facing our community today. Emphasis is on active, hands-on experience that makes the learning meaningful and interesting.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

RETREAT. Objective: To organize the first official group function for the new class. Emphasis will be on bonding, leadership skill development, team building, and to set the tone for the year. The group will learn the history of Leadership Pinellas; meet members of the organization; become acquainted with each other; learn of issues in Pinellas County and the Tampa Bay area; learn the importance of participation; and receive an overview or preview of the upcoming Youth Leadership program.

EDUCATION. Objective: To organize an event which will give an overview of education available in Pinellas County at various grade levels, as well as vo-tech education. Public and private options available will be considered.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE. Objective: To organize an event that will give an overview at the community level of the criminal justice system in Pinellas County by providing an understanding of the theoretical, practical blending of all areas of involvement, including a tour of the criminal justice complex.

GOVERNMENT. Objective: To organize an event which will give an overview of government in Pinellas County on a city and county level with respect to elected officials and staff positions. To provide discussion on the impact of growth from a countywide perspective, current land use, and projections for future land use.

BUSINESS. Objective: To organize an event which will give an overview of business and career opportunities in Pinellas County, including our number one business - tourism -and to explore manufacturing, economic development (other than tourism), utilities, and retail.

MEDIA. Objective: To discuss media and its role in Pinellas County; to include the different types of media: newspaper, television, and radio.

HUMAN SERVICES. Objective: To organize an event which gives an overview of the needs and human services available in Pinellas County (i.e. affordable housing issues, the elderly, homelessness, drugs, and mental illness).

HEALTH. Objective: To organize an event that will give an overview of the health options available in Pinellas County and to consider healthcare trends from various perspectives.

PARTICIPANTS

Each year a representative group of approximately twenty 10th, 11th and 12th grade students will be selected to participate from high schools throughout Pinellas County.

Participants should be promising individuals who have already contributed to the community or who may be expected to make commitments to community involvement in the future. It is essential that the applicant be able to commit the time required to attend the sessions.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Students must:

- Be in the 10th, 11th or 12th grade and attend an accredited high school in the Tampa Bay Area
- Submit an application with appropriate documentation
- Demonstrate leadership or emerging leadership in school or community activities
- Commit to full participation in the Youth Leadership Pinellas Program
- Be eager to learn and have strong team spirit
- Be academically sound; a B average or better is recommended
- Be willing to follow Pinellas County School Code of Conduct and policy set forth by Youth Leadership Pinellas

GRADUATES

The success of Youth Leadership Pinellas is measured by the number of graduates who involve themselves in improving the community. The program provides situations in which interested citizens may better understand community and business functions, what some of its current or impending problems are, and how they can involve themselves in finding solutions. Upon completion of the program, graduates will have the opportunity to participate in a community service project.