

YOUTH LEAP
(Youth Leadership, Empowerment, and Advocacy Program)
Application for New Members

What is Youth LEAP?

Youth LEAP is a **peer advocacy** program. It is a group of 15-20 teens from all over New York City who serve as **role models** in their communities by educating other youth about their **legal rights**, and by helping them make sure those rights are not denied. Peer advocates meet twice each week to explore their City and their communities, to learn about the laws that impact young people, and to help staff neighborhood-based **advocacy clinics** to help other youth face challenges in their lives.

Peer Advocates help staff neighborhood-based advocacy desks and work one-on-



one with teens facing every-day challenges around issues including education, public benefits, child care, employment, and health.

WHAT IS A PEER ADVOCATE?

Peer advocates are community leaders. Leadership can be defined as the ability to motivate a group of people to act in pursuit of its common interests and goals.

Peer advocates are sources of information and support. Young people turn to peer advocates when they need information or help solving a problem. Peer advocates understand their communities, are able to listen to teens' problems and concerns, and are good at motivating others to make their lives better.

Peer advocates make a difference in the lives of young people. They know how to find information about issues impacting young people their communities, and how to find answers to some of the toughest challenges teens face.

Peer Advocacy means...

...helping and supporting other young people speak up for, and access what they want.

Is Youth LEAP right for you?

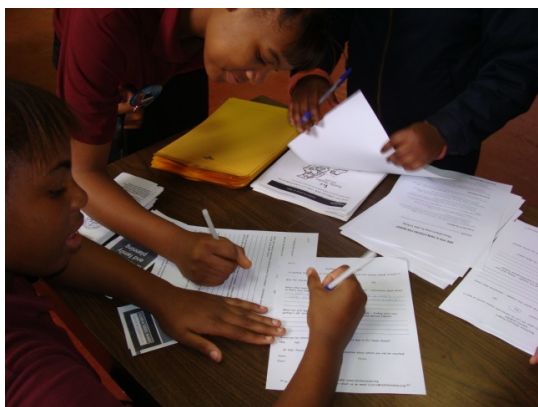
Do you want to make a difference in other teens' lives and in your community?

Are you passionate about justice?

Do you like helping people?

Do you like working with other teens?

Then peer advocacy is perfect for you!



Why should you join Youth LEAP?

- ★ Build your resume
- ★ Get work experience
- ★ Improve your college application
- ★ Make new friends
- ★ Have an experience that will change your life!

What it means to be a peer advocate:

Becoming a peer advocate is a very meaningful and exciting experience. Advocates become experts in the ways that the law impacts young people in New York City, and get hands on experience helping to make sure those rights are not violated. Advocates get to meet and learn from professionals from all over the City, including lawyers, doctors, social workers, and more! For one year, peer advocates participate in three types of activities:

- ★ Legal rights and advocacy training
- ★ Helping to staff community-based youth advocacy clinics
- ★ Providing one-on-one advocacy help to youth throughout the City.
- ★ At the end of the nine months, all peer advocates have an opportunity to join the Youth Council to take even more of a leadership role!

If you want to apply:

- ✓ You must be between 16 - 19 by September 1, 2010 (If you are under 18, you will need your parent or guardian's permission);
- ✓ You must be able to attend meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school from September, 2010 - June, 2011. (There will also be 3-4 workshops on Saturdays.)
- ✓ You must be able to attend the first Saturday Retreat on



RETREAT DATE.

HOW TO APPLY: APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please read these instructions carefully.

- ★ Complete the four page application form;
- ★ Submit two letters of recommendation. One should be from a teacher or guidance counselor at your school, or from a staff person at a program. The second recommendation can be from any person you choose (including a friend), as long as she/he is not a family member;
- ★ **Send us your application by APPLICATION DATE. You can mail, fax, or email it.** *The recommendations may be sent separately from the application form.*

Mail	Resilience Advocacy Project Youth LEAP 27 West 24th St., Suite 10D New York, NY 10010
Fax	(212) 217-2001 To: Youth LEAP
Email	Youthleap@resiliencelaw.org

IMPORTANT DATES

August 6, 2010	Applications are due
August 16, 2010	Finalists are chosen. If you are picked, we will call you and ask you for interview.
August 16 - August 27, 2010	Finalists are interviewed.
Week of September 13, 2010	First Youth LEAP session!
October 2, 2010	First Saturday Retreat!

YOUTH LEAP APPLICATION

2010-2011

Send us these pages by August 6, 2010. Please fill out the whole application in black or blue pen as neatly as possible, or type your answers. Do not use pencil.

PART 1: PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address

(Street and Apartment #): _____

(Borough and Zip Code): _____

Phone number: _____

Email address:

(Print clearly) _____

What is the best way to reach you? (Circle One) Phone Email

Gender: Male Female

Age: _____ Date of Birth (Month, Day, Year): _____

Are you in school? Yes No

Name of School: _____

Grade in September, 2010: 9 11 GED
 10 12 program

How did you hear about Youth LEAP?

Can you come to meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:00 - 6:00pm, beginning September, 2010?

Yes No Don't Know/ Maybe

Can you come to the first Saturday retreat on October 2nd, 2010?

Yes No Don't Know/ Maybe

PART TWO: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS.

Please answer **ALL** of the following three questions. Please write or type your responses on a separate piece of paper. If you write your responses, please write clearly. Your responses do not need to be long, but they should be well thought out and explained.

- 1. Why are you interested in joining the Youth LEAP program? What does becoming a peer advocate mean to you? What do you think you will like about being able to help other young people in your community?**
- 2. What is something that you are passionate about? Why?**
- 3. What are some of the biggest challenges that teens in your community face every day? What would you tell a friend who was facing one of those challenges?**

PART THREE: GETTING TO KNOW YOU -- YOUR CHOICE!

Please answer **TWO** of the questions below. Please write or type your responses on a separate piece of paper. If you write your responses, please write clearly. Your responses do not need to be long, but they should be well thought out and explained.

OPTION ONE: If you could have dinner with any person (real or fictional, living or not), who would it be and why?

OPTION TWO: What is your favorite place in the city? Why?

OPTION THREE: Submit something that you feel represents who you are and what you will bring to Youth LEAP and briefly explain what it says about you. *For example, it can be a short story or a poem that you wrote, a piece of art that you made, or anything else that you can think of!* (We cannot return submissions - please send a copy or photograph of your work, NOT an original.)

PART FOUR: OTHER ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

What after school commitments do you currently have or anticipate having during next school year? This includes clubs, after-school activities, teams, sports, school requirements, home requirements, and/or part-time jobs.

Activity	Number of days each week	Hours each week
Example: Summer Job	Monday and Wednesday	9am - 4pm
Example: Taking care of my son	Everyday	After 6:30pm

PART FIVE: RECOMMENDATIONS

Please submit **TWO Letters of Recommendation**. One should be from a teacher or guidance counselor at your school, or from a staff person at a program. The second recommendation can be from any person you choose (including a friend), as long as she/he is not a family member.

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Applications and recommendations must be post-marked (this means that they must be put in the mail by the deadline), faxed, or emailed by August 6, 2010. Recommendations may be sent separately, but they must be received no later than the application deadline.

Mail	Resilience Advocacy Project Youth LEAP 27 West 24th St., Suite 10D New York, NY 10010
Fax	(212) 217-2001 To: Youth LEAP
Email	Youthleap@resiliencelaw.org

Thank you for applying for Youth LEAP!