

Youth Leadership & Civic Engagement Program

Program Description

The Youth Leadership & Civic Engagement Program is a 6-session, in-person training designed to build civic knowledge, research ability, communication skills, and professional confidence. Each session is 1-1.5 hours and includes instruction, hands-on activities, and a short assignment.

After completing all six sessions and passing the final exam, students participate in a mandatory volunteering practicum of up to 10 hours, where they apply their skills directly in real civic and community settings. Successful completion of both the training and the practicum makes students eligible for consideration for advanced training and paid civic outreach and public engagement roles, with potential compensation up to \$23 per hour depending on role and availability.

Location & Time

217 Brighton Beach Ave, 2nd floor, Brooklyn, NY, 11235
Sessions begin at 8:10 pm

Program Schedule

Session	Topic Covered	Assignment	Weight
1	Introduction to Government & Why Elections Matter	5 multiple-choice questions	5%
2	Legislative Process & How Officials Prioritize Issues	5 multiple-choice questions	5%

3	Research Questions, Surveys, A/B Testing & Basic Data Analysis	Research question + 3 survey items	5%
4	Marketing & Segmentation	Product + target segment	5%
5	Communication, Body Language & Elevator Pitch	30-second elevator pitch	5%
6	Final Exam (Comprehensive Assessment)	Final Exam	60%

How the Grade Is Calculated

Session Assignments – 25% total

- Session 1: 5%
- Session 2: 5%
- Session 3: 5%
- Session 4: 5%
- Session 5: 5%

Participation – 15%

- Involvement in discussions and activities
- Respectful conduct
- Punctuality

Final Exam – 60%

- Multiple-choice section
- Short responses
- Brief verbal response

Passing Requirement:

- Minimum overall score of 70%, and
- Completion of *all* assignments

Students who do not pass are eligible for one free retake.

Final Exam Description

The final exam provides a comprehensive assessment of the program content. While specific questions vary each cohort, the exam generally includes:

- Multiple-choice questions measuring essential knowledge
- Short written responses evaluating applied understanding
- A brief verbal response (such as delivering a refined elevator pitch)

The exam ensures each student is prepared to enter the volunteering practicum with the necessary knowledge and professionalism.

Mandatory Volunteering Practicum

After passing the final exam, students complete a volunteering practicum of up to 10 hours. This required component includes supervised civic and community engagement activities designed to reinforce communication skills, professionalism, and public-facing experience.

Participation in the volunteering practicum is an educational requirement of the program and does not constitute employment. Eligibility for paid roles is determined separately based on performance, readiness, and project needs.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the 6-session program, students will be able to:

- Understand the basic structure of U.S. government and why elections matter
- Explain how laws move through the legislative process
- Create simple research questions and design unbiased surveys
- Recognize how segmentation and marketing shape communication strategies
- Communicate clearly using strong body language, tone, and confidence
- Demonstrate safety awareness and professional behavior in public engagement

Outcomes Upon Successful Completion

Students who pass the final exam and complete the mandatory volunteering practicum will:

- Earn the Certification of Completion
- Receive official verification of volunteer hours
- Become eligible for consideration for paid civic outreach and public engagement roles, with compensation typically up to \$23/hour depending on role and availability
- Gain supervised, real-world public engagement experience
- Strengthen college, internship, and job applications with a formal leadership credential