

"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. I also became 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, St. Petersburg Collegiate High School



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, Clearwater High School



APPLICATION & INFORMATION

Apply online: www.ymcasuncoast.org or www.leadershippinellas.com . Deadline: October 1, 2011. Applications may be delivered, mailed or emailed to: Shannon Kimball, YMCA of the Suncoast – North Pinellas Branch 4550 Village Center Drive Palm Harbor, FL 34685 For further information, please call 727-772-9622 or email skimball@suncoastymca.org or thibbard@suncoastymca.org

2011-2012 CLASS SCHEDULE

October 29, 2011	Opening Retreat
November 2, 2011	Health and Human Services
December 7, 2011	Education
January 11, 2012	Business, Media & Technology
February 8, 2012	Arts & Culture – NEW!
March 7, 2012	Government & Infrastructure
April 4, 2012	Criminal Justice
May 2, 2012	Graduation – Parents invited

Students are expected to participate in all sessions. Program days begin at 8:00 a.m. and conclude at 5:00 p.m. Members missing one program day are ineligible to graduate. Attire for program days is professional: NO jeans, t-shirts, skirts above the knees, tank tops, etc. **All class participants must attend the retreat.**

SELECTION PROCESS

Applications 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 panel of community volunteers and will be notified promptly. Members are evaluated on the basis of the overall class dynamics as well as individual merits.

PARTICIPATION FEES

The cost to participate per student is \$90 and is due upon acceptance into the program. Cost does not cover the actual expenses of the program. Members of the community are invited to make contributions to support financial assistance for teens who want to participate, but do not have the resources. Youth Leadership Pinellas is committed to being open to all qualified participants regardless of ability to pay.



**BUILDING TOMORROWS
LEADERS TODAY.**



Youth Leadership Pinellas is a partnership between Leadership Pinellas and the YMCA of the Suncoast

PURPOSE

Youth Leadership Pinellas is a series of interactive days designed to educate high school teens on community resources and issues, develop an excellence in leadership, build teamwork skills, and foster involvement in community services.

PROGRAM

Youth Leadership Pinellas (YLP) began in 1998 when Leadership Pinellas and the YMCA of the Suncoast determined that local teens should have the opportunity to participate in the same community educational experience as adults who participated in Leadership Pinellas. Since then hundreds of Pinellas County students have graduated from the program, taking valuable life lessons to college, and then into the work place. Many graduates have been selected to serve on the YMCA of the Suncoast Board of Directors as the Teen Representative.

Leadership Pinellas is non-partisan and in no way is a political activist group. Leadership Pinellas provides volunteers, assists with fundraising, marketing and program support to YLP. Class organization, program management and execution are provided by the YMCA of the Suncoast.

Youth Leadership Pinellas is an eight-month program, operating from October through May. Participants engage in six full day sessions, plus an orientation retreat and graduation event. The program is run separate from any school-sponsored program.

On each class day, participants have the opportunity to meet community decision makers and to engage them in frank, off-the-record discussions on current issues. 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.

PROGRAM DAY DESCRIPTIONS

OPENING RETREAT: This is first official group function for the new class. Emphasis focuses on critical thinking, leadership ethics, diversity, team building, and will set the tone for the year. The group will learn the history of Leadership Pinellas; meet members of the organization; become acquainted with one another; learn issues in Pinellas County and the Tampa Bay area that pertain to them and determine their class service project. One parent or guardian is expected to attend the first hour of the retreat.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES: An overview of health in Pinellas County and healthcare trends from various perspective. Students will be introduced to human service needs providers (i.e. affordable housing issues, the elderly, homelessness, drugs, and mental illness, etc.)

EDUCATION: Provides insight to education available in Pinellas County at various grade levels, including college tours. Public, private and vo-tech options are included.

BUSINESS & MEDIA: Introduction to business and career opportunities in Pinellas County. Students will also gain a behind the scenes perspective on media including newspaper, television, and radio.

ARTS & CULTURE: New this year! Students will join adults participating in Leadership Pinellas to further their understanding of arts and culture in Pinellas County.

GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE
Students will receive an overview of government, in Pinellas County. Tours may include visits to the Emergency Operations Center and Pinellas County Solid Waste Facility, and may possibly visit with elected officials.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: Provide an understanding of the theoretical, practical blending of all areas of involvement, including a tour of the criminal justice complex.

PARTICIPANTS

Each year a representative group of 30 10th, 11th and 12th grade students will be selected to participate from high schools throughout Pinellas County. Candidates must meet eligibility requirements, and participate in a panel interview prior to acceptance into the program. Financial assistance is available.

ELIGIBILITY

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
- Public high school students must complete a TDE form (obtained from the guidance counselor).

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.