



YW LEADS EMPOWERMENT COUNCIL OVERVIEW

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the YW Leads Empowerment Council is to bring girl voice and girl leadership to the Greater Pittsburgh area. YW Leads Empowerment Council participants will help to advise, support, and promote the programs of the Teen Leadership Institute, as it works to fulfill the YWCA mission: *“eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.”*

OBJECTIVES:

The objective of the YW Leads Empowerment Council is to support the mission of the YWCA by:

- **EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY ON ISSUES EFFECTING GIRLS;**
- **ASSISTING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EVENTS AND PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT GIRLS;**
- **ADVISING THE YWCA GREATER PITTSBURGH TEEN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE ON HOW BEST TO SERVE TEEN GIRLS;**
- **ADVOCATING FOR A COMMUNITY THAT VALUES AND SUPPORTS ALL GIRLS;**
- **DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING SOCIAL CHANGE PROJECTS;**
- **BECOMING RESEARCHERS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CONCERNS AND EXPERIENCES OF ALL GIRLS IN DIVERSE COMMUNITIES.**

TERM OF SERVICE:

YW LEADS EMPOWERMENT COUNCIL MEMBERS SERVE FOR ONE YEAR, WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF CONTINUING BEYOND THAT TIME.

ADVISORY BOARD COMPOSITION:

THE YW LEADS EMPOWERMENT COUNCIL WILL BE A DIVERSE GROUP OF JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SELECTED FOR PARTICIPATION BASED ON THEIR DESIRE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THEMSELVES AND THE COMMUNITY. AT ALL TIMES, AT LEAST 25% OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL SHALL CONSIST OF YOUTH WHO HAVE ACCESSED THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE YWCA TEEN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE.

MEETINGS:

THE YW LEADS EMPOWERMENT COUNCIL WILL MEET MONTHLY ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH. ADDITIONALLY, COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES WILL REQUIRE APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS PER WEEK.

RELATIONSHIP TO YWCA GREATER PITTSBURGH TEEN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE:

THIS IS AN ADVISORY BOARD TO THE YWCA GREATER PITTSBURGH TEEN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE. IT IS THE ROLE AND SOLE PREROGATIVE OF THE TEEN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE TO ENACT POLICY ACTIVITIES REGARDING TEEN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE PROGRAMS. THE YW TEENS EMPOWERMENT COUNCIL IS EXPECTED TO OFFER RECOMMENDATIONS AND EXPERTISE TO THE TEEN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE TO STRENGTHEN AND CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVE AGENCY SERVICES AND IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY.