



HopeWorks of Howard County's **YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROJECT**

The HopeWorks' Youth Leadership Project is a service-learning program dedicated to empowering teens to challenge systems of oppression and prevent relationship violence in their community. This project creates a space for students to grow in understanding themselves and the world. Facilitating self-care and social justice projects, youth leaders engage in frank discussions, raise their social consciousness, and participate in creative projects and activism.

This project provides an affirming and safe space for all students.

Open to teens, age 13 to 18, participants explore many topics related to violence prevention including healthy relationships, media literacy and the safe use of technology, social constructions of femininity, healthy masculinity, self-management and self-care, environmental justice, body policing, bystander intervention, healthy sexuality, cultural relativity, bullying, gender dynamics, and understanding intersectionality and root causes of oppression.

WHAT'S PLANNED?

- Explore self-care and social justice in our monthly meetings (September-June)
- Learn to plan and conduct workshops
- Create Zines highlighting youth voices
- Learn about becoming an advocate for change
- Volunteer with HopeWorks
- Earn Community Services Hours

INTERESTED? Want to learn more?

Contact: Community Educator: Youth Initiatives, LaRelle John
ljohn@hopeworksofhc.org

This information is neither sponsored nor endorsed by HCPSS or the school.

HopeWorks' Youth Leadership Project

Application Form for School Year 2025/2026

We see hope and change in young people

The HopeWorks' Youth Leadership Project is a service-learning program inspiring introspective thinking, social consciousness, equity, and the use of these concepts to prevent violence.

Youth Leadership is open to teens of all genders, ages 13-18. The project provides an affirming and safe space for all students. HopeWorks makes available a loan of a tablet or laptop if needed.

HopeWorks' Youth Leadership Project explores many topics related to violence prevention including healthy relationships, media literacy and the safe use of technology, social constructions of femininity, healthy masculinity, self-management and self-care, environmental justice, body policing, bystander intervention, healthy sexuality, cultural relativity, bullying, gender dynamics, anti-racism and anti-oppression, and understanding intersectionality and root causes of oppression. All Youth Leaders serve as outreach specialists, educating their peers and encouraging personal and community safety.

Youth Leaders:

- Create a Zine on liberation and youth power
- Collaborate and contribute to social media communications
- Learn violence prevention skills
- Engage in conversations around social justice issues and challenging systems of oppression
- Develop leadership and public speaking skills
- Earn community service hours

Qualifications

- Be between 8th grade and 12th grade with the written consent of a parent/guardian to participate
- Work well with others
- Be curious about prevention and have a want to promote change

Requirements

- Must attend monthly meetings/trainings
- Participate in service projects
- Attend and assist with agency awareness events

HopeWorks' Youth Leadership Project

Application Form for School Year 2025/2026

Today's Date _____

Personal Information

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Pronouns: _____

Current Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone Number _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail Address _____ Birthday _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Phone _____

Parent/Guardian E-mail Address _____

School _____

Grade (in 2025/2026 school year) _____

Academic Credit

Will you seek academic credit (e.g., community service and service learning) for your participation?

YES ___ NO ___

If seeking academic credit, youth leaders are responsible for obtaining and meeting their specific program requirements. With advanced notice, HopeWorks will provide necessary documentation for credit upon request.

Please provide contact information, if any, for your academic advisor.

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Availability

Youth Leaders are required to attend monthly meetings typically on the third Saturdays of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. During these meetings youth leaders or HopeWorks' staff conduct trainings on topics related to dating violence prevention. Lunch is served during these meetings. We also use this time to plan for special events, hear from guest speakers, or hold movie and book discussions.

Will you be available to attend these meetings? ___Yes ___No

Participation Agreement

_____ I understand that nothing contained in the application or conveyed during any training session or other volunteer experiences at HopeWorks is intended to create a contract between HopeWorks and myself. In addition, I understand and agree that if I am accepted as youth leader, my tenure is expected to last at least one school term but may be terminated at any time, with prior notice, at the option of either myself or HopeWorks, and that no promises or representations contrary to the foregoing are binding on me or HopeWorks unless made in writing and signed by myself and a HopeWorks designated representative.

Date **Applicant's Signature**

Date **Parent/Guardian Signature (Applicants under 18 years of age)**

Please return your completed application by email (preferred), in person, or via mail to:

LaRelle John
Community Educator: Youth Initiatives
HopeWorks of Howard County
9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 300
Columbia, MD 21046

Phone: 410-997-0304
Web: hopeworksofhc.org
E-mail: ljohn@hopeworksofhc.org

HopeWorks is an Equal Opportunity employer. Personnel and volunteers are chosen on the basis of ability without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, gender identity, marital status, or sexual orientation, in accordance with federal and state law.