CITY LEADERS ACADEMY

Celebrating Our 10th Year

The City Leaders Academy is now accepting applications for the 2022/2023 program. Up until now, this leadership program has been strictly for middle school students (6th-8th grade). This year we are proud to announce we will now be accepting 9th grade students. The City Leaders Academy introduces 6th-9th grade students to the leaders and locations that make Columbus a great opportunity city. This leadership academy is designed to educate and accelerate youth to become model citizens and future leaders of our great city. Our programming for 9th grade students will focus on college and life readiness. The ideal candidate for the program should exhibit leadership abilities at home, school and within the community, exhibit great behavior and **really want** to be part of this great program. Selection criteria is as follows:

- Must be a city of Columbus resident (If you are currently receiving City of Columbus trash and recycling services, you are eligible).
- Must be entering the 6th-9th grade in Fall 2022. ***New***
- Only one child per household is eligible each year.
- Must **maintain a 2.8 grade point average** in school (*an updated grade card must be submitted each grading period*). Students who will enter the 6th grade in the fall may also submit a report card and a letter from a teacher or administrator verifying it equates to a 2.8 GPA. ***New***
- A letter from a teacher or administrator acknowledging the youth's academic and leadership abilities should accompany the application. If this is not available, please submit a letter from a community leader; this could be a letter from a civic group or from clergy.
- Once City Leader is selected a parent/guardian must approve participation by fully completing all paperwork and agreeing to comply with program guidelines. Paperwork to be disbursed at orientation. Parents are requested to attend the **mandatory orientation with their child**.
- The selection process also includes a one-on-one personal interview between the applicant and program coordinator(s).
- Students 6th-8th must submit two written essays and 9th graders must also submit a third essay (see instructions on the attached application).
- The entire program year runs October 2022 through May 2023. **Youth cannot no more than two City Leaders Academy meet ups throughout the entire year.** If a youth misses more than two meet ups, they will not be able to graduate from the Academy. **It is extremely important that both parents and youth check your calendars before applying. Youth participation is imperative and we rely on parents to get them to all meet ups and events.**

Program Overview

- The City Leaders Academy and related activities are FREE for all participants.
- Most meals are provided, however, youth may be asked to pack lunch on some field trip days. We try to accommodate special diet needs as much as possible with the meals served. We do ask each family to sign up for snacks and beverages for at least one monthly meet up.
- Applications must be returned by hard copy only to our offices at The Jerry Hammond Center, 1111 E. Broad Street, by 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 30, 2022. You may mail your package or leave it with the guard desk. Those selected will be notified by email on or before Friday, Oct. 14, 2022 with an email invitation to a Mandatory Orientation with your parent(s)/guardian on Saturday, Oct. 22, 2022. Only apply if you are able to participate in the mandatory orientation and commit to the monthly meetup. The drop off location is the Jerry Hammond Building, 1111 E. Broad Street, front entrance unless otherwise notified.
- The school year Academy meet ups take place on the third Saturday of each month from noon–3 p.m. As a reminder, youth only can miss a maximum of two days of the school year meet ups in order to graduate. School year meet ups are usually at 1111 E. Broad unless otherwise noted.
- Graduation will be held on Saturday, May 20, 2023. All City Leaders are required to attend graduation. Location TBD.
- On occasion, we do have a few opportunities to participate in events that are outside of our regular meetup dates, such as community service projects or special events we are invited to attend. These events are encouraged, but optional.
- If it is necessary to have virtual sessions, City Leaders will receive the Zoom information via email.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Antonio Combs at ANCombs@columbus.gov or 614-645-0918. Thank you for helping us cultivate our next generation of city leaders.

Key Dates to Remember

Only apply if you can comply with all these dates

- **Sept. 30, 2022:** Application Deadline
- **Oct. 14, 2022:** Parents/Youth Notified of Application Decision
- **Oct. 22, 2022:** Mandatory Parent/Youth In-person Orientation – noon
- **School year every 3rd Saturday**: Monthly Meet Ups
- **Nov. 21-22, 2022:** Fall Break Program
- **April 13-14, 2023:** Spring Break Program
- **May 20, 2023:** Graduation

CITY LEADERS ACADEMY 2022/2023 APPLICATION

The application deadline is **5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30, 2022**. An incomplete or a late application package will not be considered. City Leaders staff is not involved in the scoring of applications.

All applications must be submitted in hard copy form. Please mail or drop off your applications to:

Antonio Combs, City Leaders Academy
The Jerry Hammond Center
1111 E. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43205

Selected youth will be notified on or before **Friday, Oct. 14, 2022 and be expected to attend the mandatory orientation with their parent(s)/guardian on Saturday, Oct. 22, 2022**.

Student Essay Questions

All grades, 6th – 9th, must complete essay numbers 1 and 2. In addition, 9th graders must also submit essay number 3. **Responses must be at least 250 words in length, and typed in MLA format (12 point Times New Roman font, double spaced).** Please attach essay responses to the completed City Leaders application package:

Essay #1: An important focus of City Leaders Academy is to expand a student's understanding of the contribution they can make to their families, their racial and/or ethnic group, school, worship center and the community in which they live and to prepare for life-long learning. Please tell us how you have already made a substantial impact on any/all of the above with your leadership abilities and who has been your mentor along the way.

Essay #2: Consider yourself already a City Leader. Look around your neighborhood, your school, your worship center and your community as a whole and share the one thing you would like to change and the steps you would take to do so. (ie. Homelessness, education system, government, school, etc.).

This 3rd question is just for 9th graders in addition to the above two questions

Essay #3: You are now entering high school. You are now a small fish in a big pond. What plans are you making for your future and how will you go about achieving your goals? Who will help you?

Please respond to essay questions in your **own words;** responses plagiarized or written by someone other than the applicant (i.e. parents; siblings) will be removed from the selection process.

2022/2023 Application Information

Participant Information

Youth Name:			**Gender** (Check one): ☐Male ☐Female ☐Non-binary ☐Other	
Birth Date:	**Age**:	**School in Fall**:	**GPA**:	**Entering Grade**:

Parent/Guardian Information

Name of Child's Parent(s) or Guardian(s):		
Address (Must be a Columbus resident or receive City of Columbus trash and snow removal to qualify): *Star the number of which you prefer to be reached:	**City**:	**ZIP**:
Home Phone:	**Cell Phone**:	**Work Phone**:
E-mail (Required-this is our preferred method of contact):		
Child resides primarily with (Check one): ☐Mother ☐Father/Mother ☐Father ☐ Other:		

Emergency Contacts (other than parents)

Name	Home Phone	Cell Phone	Work Phone	Relationship

Career Interests

Please indicate any career interests you may have (i.e. Medical field, lawyer, politician, entrepreneur, etc.)

_____ _____

_____ _____

Photography Release

The staff, the media, and programming partners with permission from the City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, may photograph or videotape my child for educational and public relations purposes.

Signature: _____ **Date**: _____

Parents and family members of the City Leaders may attend the sessions however do we have your permission to photograph and videotape you? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Signature: _____ **Date**: _____

Field Trip, Routine and Activity Release

I give permission for my child to participate in all field trips and activities offered by the City Leaders Program. These trips will include what is listed on the agenda, however, may be subject to change. I also authorize the City of Columbus to do everything necessary to make sure of my child's health and safety in case of an emergency. I agree to not hold the City of Columbus, staff and sponsors of the program responsible for property damage or injury that results from my child's participation in this program.

Signature: _____ **Date**: _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Received: _____

Staff Initials: _____