Thank you for joining the webinar! We will begin shortly.

Advocacy in Action:
Activating Youth Advocates
Special thanks to...

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Upcoming Advocacy in Action webinars:

March: Using Social Media for Advocacy

Dates and additional webinars to be announced soon!

Visit www.afterschoolalliance.org for more details.
Why Engage Students?

• They are most directly impacted by your programs.

• They can tell personal stories about the importance of afterschool.

• An opportunity to involve students in a hands on civics lesson.

• Legislators and key stakeholders love to visit with students.
Teens Take D.C.

2013/2014 Youth and Family
Westside/Grosvenor House YMCA
Teens Take the City

Introduction

- Teens Take the City is different from all other teen leadership programs because it is designed to give teens the tools they need to become active influences in their community. The program teaches teens all about New York City government and gives all participants the opportunity to research and debate topics of their choosing. Through the program, teens learn to take action in their community and in the halls of city government.

Purpose

- The purpose of the Teens Take the City program is to facilitate the exposure of students to the function of New York City government through an engaging civics curriculum that emphasizes academic, social and leadership skill building.
The Teens Take the City curriculum links student community activism and civic leadership. There are four (4) components of the Teens Take the City curriculum:

1. “What’s the Problem?”
   (Discussion of Issues, Community Exploration, Community Mapping, Interview Skills, and Research)

2. “What can be done?”
   (Form Policy Groups, Research, Shaping a Policy Proposal, Learning City Government, Research, Business Etiquette, Nominating Teens to run for elected officials at Mid-program)

3. “How can WE solve it?”
   (Policy Formulation, Taking Action, Parliamentary Procedure, Public Speaking, Listening, Debate and Resolution Skills)

4. “Taking Action”
   (Community Change Models, Service Learning Project in Community)
Youth and Family Objectives

T.I.G.E.R.

- To increase visibility of youth programs offered in our community
- Increase the knowledge of elected officials and legislative staff on the importance of supporting youth programming
- Giving our youth the opportunity to speak about an issue that affects us all
- Exposing youth to the power of speaking up for themselves and others who are unable
- Report back to other youth about the experience
Teens Take the City – West Side YMCA program participants arrive in Washington D.C.
Before heading out for our meetings we met with Jon Terry, lobbyist for the YMCA of Greater New York in DC.
Teens meeting with legislative staff in Senator Gillibrand’s office
Here we are in Congressman Rangel’s office
After our very informative meeting with Congressman Serrano.
Contact Information

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Activating Youth Advocates: Youth Are Stakeholders
Advocacy Formula

A–Alignment with other organizations, programs or people who have the same mission or inspire to achieve the same goal.

D–Development of an action plan for each project and building the capacity of programs to do the work

V–Vision work on establishing shared vision with staff, youth, parents, community members and policy makers (engaging all stakeholders through shared vision).

O–Organizational support Receiving consistent resources and support from your organization–consistently communicates with your organization to access and utilize available resources.

C–Community Involvement/Collaborative Partnership–making the community aware and providing opportunities for contribution and working with all partners involved sharing resources and supporting one another.

A–Action, Approach, Activities the way in which you bring attention to your advocacy and gain traction

C–Civic Responsibility moving on your responsibilities as a citizen and exercising your right to be heard, but be sure to do so respectfully.

Y–Youth Voice youth input and youth taking on leadership roles on projects, Youth having opportunities to contribute and express themselves.
Tangible Activities With An Advocacy Component that Youth Participate In

- **Youth Council**— Participants will engage in leadership development and decision making around Beacon programming. They help lead the Beacon's advocacy effort as well as other projects the Beacon is involved in.

- **Youth Community Planning Collaborative**— Participants work on a civic and planning project that address issues in the community, school or young people's lives that they would like to research, address and work on to present to their peers, schools, and community. Community service credit awarded for these projects.
Hands-on Training

- Introduction – Team Building
- Membership, Leadership & Youth Engagement
- City Government 101, Youth Voice & Advocacy
- Planning/Organizing Projects & Documentation
- Identifying Social Issues
- Researching
- Mid-Reflection/Brainstorming
- Project Voting/Action Plan Development
- Project Steps
- Piecing It Together
- Final Product
- Celebration & Evaluations
Campaign for Children Youth Voice Trainings

- How to use social media as an advocacy tool
- Social media etiquette
Training Youth on how to meet with elected officials and assisting in preparing speeches as well as speaking at public rally's are key. Youth Visits to meet with elected officials and testifying at City Council Hearings demonstrates the power of youth voice. Silent marching with in the neighborhood to raise awareness mobilizes community resources.
Activities in which the community and all stakeholders are invited.

- Youth
- Parents
- Elected Officials
- Media Outlets
- Community Members
Program activities are showcased like S.T.E.M. with (Robotics, Tech Time Experiments), Dance, Arts, Sport Competition with obstacle course. Games, prizes, food. Recorded Messaging and Advocacy station with petition signup.
Youth showcase their Talent as well as what they learned in afterschool through Poetry, Speeches, Dances, Singing, Band performances incorporating why Afterschool is important to them, why it is needed and why we need more afterschool programs.
Lights on Afterschool

*Lights On Afterschool* is the only nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs and their important role in the lives of children, families and communities. The effort has become a hallmark of the afterschool movement and generates media coverage across the country each year.
Opportunities for Contribution

National Bacons Network Youth Leadership Conference

Campaign for Summer Jobs Youth Action Day

Access for Young Women’s Leadership Conference
Contact Information

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Thank you for joining us!

If you have additional questions, please contact:

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