

YOUTH

JUSTICE

BOARD

**Application for New Members**

**2012-2013**

## What is the Youth Justice Board?

**The Youth Justice Board helps teens speak to New York City leaders about issues that matter to them!**

The Youth Justice Board is a diverse group of New York City teens who work to make the city better for their peers. Board members investigate an issue that affects their lives, come up with ideas about how to make things better, and then help turn these ideas into reality. Through this process, members develop critical thinking, leadership and public speaking skills that will benefit them now and in their futures. The program meets at the Center for Court Innovation in midtown Manhattan.



*Members of the 2011-2012 Youth Justice Board*

## What will I do?

**In 2012-13, the Board will study school truancy.**

**School truancy is a risk-factor for both dropping out of school and becoming involved in the justice system. Yet 34% of high school students in New York City miss at least one month of school each year.<sup>1</sup> The Youth Justice Board will work to reduce rates of truancy and help teens who are affected by this issue.**

Truancy is a challenge that adult policymakers have struggled to address and they are eager to hear young people's input. Board members will interview experts on school truancy, conduct focus groups with young people, and analyze their own experiences to learn about this issue. At the end of the year, Board members will publish a report containing their ideas about how to address this problem. Members will present their recommendations to policymakers and other city stakeholders.

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<sup>1</sup> Statistic from Wake Up NYC: <http://wakeupnyc.org/learn.html>.

# Is the Youth Justice Board right for you?

- Are you passionate about justice?
- Do you like talking about your ideas and hearing other people's ideas?
- Do you want to make a difference on important issues?
- Do you like working with other teens?

## THEN WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU!

- Build your resume
- Get work experience
- Improve your college application
- Earn money
- Make new friends
- Have an experience that will change your life!

### **What it means to join the Board...**

Being a Youth Justice Board member is a very exciting experience. Members work directly with professionals in the city who are working to reduce youth truancy rates, including staff at the Mayor's Office, city leaders, and justice system experts whose clients have been affected by truancy.



### **In past years, members have:**

- Published an informational comic book for youth about the juvenile justice system;
- Led trainings for judges and lawyers about how to work with teens;
- Written and published op-eds in newspapers;
- Designed and led educational workshops for teens;
- Made presentations at national conferences; and
- Testified before state and local legislative committees.

"The Youth Justice Board has truly changed me and opened my eyes to the opportunities I have to make myself heard"  
*-Maya, YJB member*

### **If you want to apply...**

- You must be 14-18 years old by August 28, 2012. (If you are under 18 years old, you will need your parent or guardian's permission to join).
- You must be allowed to work in the United States (if you have a Social Security Number, you are allowed).
- You must be able to go on an overnight retreat on September 7-9, 2012 (all expenses will be covered by the program).
- You must be able to attend meetings every Tuesday and Thursday from August 28, 2012—June 6, 2013. There will also be 4-5 longer workshops on weekends and school

Members earn stipends for participating in the program!

holidays.

## HOW TO APPLY

**We have two deadlines this year. Our priority deadline is Friday, June 22, 2012, and the final deadline is July 12, 2012. You can mail, fax, or email the application, or complete it online.**

<b>Mail:</b>	Youth Justice Board Center for Court Innovation 520 8th Avenue, 18th floor New York, NY 10018
<b>Fax:</b>	(212) 397-0985 To: Youth Justice Board
<b>Email:</b>	yjb@courtinnovation.org
<b>Online:</b>	www.courtinnovation.org/yjb

### Important dates:

<b>Friday, June 22 (Priority deadline)</b> <b>Thursday, July 12 (Final deadline)</b>	Application due dates. Applicants who apply by the priority deadline may hear from us earlier about the interview, however <b>all applications received by July 12 will receive equal consideration.</b>
<b>Week of July 16</b>	Finalists are picked. If you are picked, we will call and email you to ask you to come for an interview.
<b>Weeks of July 23 and 30</b>	Finalists are interviewed.
<b>Tuesday August 28</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Youth Justice Board session.
<b>Weekend of September 7</b>	Retreat!
<b>August 28, 2012 - June 6, 2013</b>	Youth Justice Board sessions, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30 – 6:30 pm. (There will also be 4-5 workshops on weekends/public school holidays).

**For more information: Call (646) 386-5925 or email [yjb@courtinnovation.org](mailto:yjb@courtinnovation.org)**



*Members of the Youth Justice Board in action!*

# YOUTH JUSTICE BOARD APPLICATION

You can complete the application online at [www.courtinnovation.org/vjb](http://www.courtinnovation.org/vjb) or send us these pages by June 22, 2012 (priority deadline) or July 12, 2012 (final deadline). (Instructions on how to send them are on the last page). Please fill out the whole application neatly with a black or blue pen or type your answers. Do not use pencil.

## Part I: Personal Information

Name:

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Apt. #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Neighborhood City Zip Code

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you in school?  Yes  No

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade in 2012-13:  8<sup>th</sup>  9<sup>th</sup>  10<sup>th</sup>  11<sup>th</sup>  12<sup>th</sup>  OGED program

Phone number(s): ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  Home  
( ) \_\_\_\_\_  Cell phone

Email address (print clearly): \_\_\_\_\_

What is the best way to contact you?  Phone  Email

How did you hear about the Youth Justice Board? \_\_\_\_\_

If from a Youth Justice Board member or alum, who? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you allowed to work in the United States?

Yes  No  Maybe/Don't know

Can you come to meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30 – 6:30 pm, beginning on August 28, 2012?

Yes  No  Maybe/Don't know

Can you come on the weekend retreat, September 7-9, 2012? (The program covers all expenses).

Yes  No  Maybe/Don't know



**3. What is something you are passionate about? Why?**

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**Part III: Your Choice: Please answer ONE of the questions below.**

**Option A: If you could have dinner with any person (fictional or real, living or not) who would it be and why?**

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**Option B: Submit something that represents you and what you will bring to the Youth Justice Board. It can be a poem or short story you wrote, an essay on a topic of your choice, a piece of art you made, or anything else you can think of! This is your chance to show us more about your personality and skills. (We cannot return submissions – please send a copy or photograph of your work.)**

**Part IV. Other responsibilities**

**Please check off any school and after-school commitments you MIGHT have in 2012-2013:**

- AP classes
- School clubs/afterschool activities (e.g. student government, choir)
- Sports teams
- Family (e.g. regular babysitting, picking up relatives from school)
- Test prep classes (SAT/ACT)
- College applications
- Other (explain below)

**We understand that your schedule can be unpredictable and become busy. What strategies will you use to make sure that you still attend Board meetings regularly?**

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**Part V. Recommendations**

Please submit two letters of recommendation. One should be from a teacher or guidance counselor at your school or from a staff person at a program. The second recommendation can be from any person that you choose (including a friend), as long as he/she is not a family member. The recommendations may be sent separately, but are also due no later than **July 12, 2012**.

**Applications must be post-marked, faxed, emailed, or completed online by: June 22, 2012 (priority deadline) or July 12, 2012 (final deadline).**

**By mail:** Youth Justice Board  
Center for Court Innovation  
520 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10018

**By fax:** 212-397-0985  
**To:** Youth Justice Board

**By email:** [yjb@courtinnovation.org](mailto:yjb@courtinnovation.org)

**Online:** [www.courtinnovation.org/yjb](http://www.courtinnovation.org/yjb)

**Questions? Call (646) 386-5925 or email [yjb@courtinnovation.org](mailto:yjb@courtinnovation.org)  
Thank you for applying to join the Youth Justice Board!**