



To: MT, WY, and SD Community-Based Organization & Out-of-School Youth Program Leaders:

Hopa Mountain is excited to announce an opportunity for adult leaders working with youth involved in community service and/or service-learning programs to be a part of Hopa Mountain's 2011-2012 Youth Leaders in Service (YLS) cohort. This year-long training and mentoring opportunity supports exceptional adult leaders who are working with youth involved in service-learning projects in rural and tribal communities throughout Montana, Wyoming, and South Dakota (Cheyenne River and Pine Ridge Reservations). The 2011-2012 YLS program will commence August 1-4, 2011 with a four-day training at Luccock Park near Livingston, MT and will consist of two additional weekend training sessions (Nov. 18-20, 2011 and Feb. 3-5, 2012) as well as monthly conference calls and individualized support for each YLS adult leader. Expenses including mileage to and from each training, food and lodging at each training, and monthly phone consultations will be covered by Hopa Mountain for cohort fellows. This opportunity is made possible by funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service. YLS fellows will be expected to work with and consult with youth leaders to determine meaningful (community) service-learning projects, coach training and process reflection sessions, support the recruitment of volunteers, as well as learn how to manage grant funds and documentation.

Hopa Mountain invests in rural and tribal citizen leaders, adults and youth, who are working to improve education, ecological health, and economic development. Through Youth Leaders in Service, Hopa Mountain will provide training, networking, and support services to adults who are committed to developing out-of-school service-learning programs for youth ages 11-17 in rural and tribal communities.

Benefits of participating in 2011-2012 Youth Leaders in Service cohort:

- Youth Program Development Skills
- Marketing Support
- Peer Mentoring
- Innovative Techniques for Youth Development including: Promising Perspectives, 40 Developmental Assets, Service-Learning
- Appreciative Inquiry
- Asset-Based Community Development
- Mentoring Strategies for Youth
- Risk Management Policies
- Sustainable Youth Programs
- Funding Opportunities
- Youth-Adult Partnerships for Community Service
- Experiential Programming: Theory, Practice, and Application
- Working with Challenging Participants

Hopa Mountain is seeking individuals in rural and tribal communities who are committed to working with youth, especially those at-risk. This is an excellent and unique training, leadership and mentoring opportunity for early-career professionals. If you are interested in applying or know of an individual who would make a great candidate, please contact Josh Meyer josh.meyer@hopamountain.org at Hopa Mountain (406) 586-2455.

Successful applicants will exhibit: enthusiasm, personal commitment to working with youth, introspective awareness, dedication, and a desire to be connected to a network of like-minded peers who are excited about doing innovative work in rural and tribal communities but recognize that they could use additional support along the way.

Those who are selected to participate in the adult YLS training program will have an opportunity to apply for competitive Youth Leaders in Service sub-awards for community-based nonprofit organizations and schools from rural (towns with less than 35,000 people) and tribal communities to initiate youth-led, asset and community-based service-learning projects. Applicants can apply for sub-awards up to \$12,000 to develop projects in their communities. Adult YLS program leaders will collaborate with youth leaders and community agencies to orchestrate and oversee meaningful service-learning projects. Sub-award grantees must concurrently be enrolled in the YLS cohort program and participate in trainings and conference calls throughout the YLS program year.

What is Youth Leaders in Service?

The purpose of Hopa Mountain's Youth Leaders in Service is to support rural and tribal youth programs in Montana, Wyoming, and South Dakota's Cheyenne River and Pine Ridge Reservations in leading service-learning projects and activities that create healthier communities. We have learned that specific program requirements and needs differ between communities. Our strategy for doing the most good is to support adult leaders of youth programs invested in this work. By supporting the adult leaders and creating a professional network of likeminded adult leaders who work with youth throughout the rural West, we hope to take opportunities, activities and youth programming to a whole new level. Adult program leaders will work with and consult youth leaders to determine meaningful community service-learning projects, coach training and reflection on the process, support the recruitment of adult volunteers, and manage grant funds and documentation. Youth leaders, with mentoring from adult leaders, will design and implement innovative service-learning projects with local community partners that:

- Provide interested youth, ages 11-17, with opportunities to develop youth-led, asset- and community-based service-learning projects which make a difference and increase their civic engagement;
- Build youth's civic engagement, academic leadership, and community problem solving skills;
- Improve the health of their community;
- Activate and sustain a culture of service-learning in their communities;
- Build the capacity of rural and tribal out-of-school program directors to utilize community-based resources for youth-adult partnerships for community service; and
- Foster stronger relationships among the region's out-of-school providers to develop a network that is committed to engaging youth in service-learning that promotes civic engagement, youth philanthropy, and social entrepreneurship.

Sincerely,

JOSH MEYER

Josh Meyer
Youth Leaders in Service Program Coordinator
josh.meyer@hopamountain.org
(406) 586 -2455



Youth Leaders in Service Program 2011 Preliminary Application

Please complete and return this application by **June 30, 2011** electronically to josh.meyer@hopamountain.org, or by mail to Hopa Mountain, P.O. Box 10892, Bozeman, MT 59719.

Name _____ **Title** _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Phone _____ **E-mail** _____

How long have you been associated with this program?

Name of Organization _____

Does your organization have 501(c)3 (tax exempt) status _____ **Yes** _____ **No**

If not, is your organization (please check): ___ **incorporated by a State;**

___ **incorporated by a Tribe;** ___ **a community group;** other _____

How long has your organization been in existence? _____

How would you describe your personal mission?

How would you describe your personal sense-of-purpose?

What is your organization's mission?

What is your organization's purpose?

Please describe the goals for your youth programs.

What challenges are you discovering? (about the work that you are doing)?

Please describe your background.

Please describe your future plans.

What is your current "growth edge"? (What is something challenging that you are currently discovering about yourself in this line of work?)

How do you see the Youth Leaders in Service program benefiting you in this process?

In order to develop a Youth Leaders in Service Program that is customized to meet your needs, please prioritize your training and organizational development goals. Under each item, please rank by placing a “1” for high priority, “2” for medium priority, or “3” for low priority:

Leadership Development

- Adaptive Leadership
- Professional goals and career development
- Personal and professional skills development
- Volunteer development and training
- Succession planning
- Community assessment
- Other _____

Organizational Development

- Board governance, management, policies
- Group relations
- Human resource tools
- Financial management
- Information technology
- Resource development
- Grant writing
- Program development/grant writing
- Staff management/staff development
- Other _____

Program Development

- Curriculum development
- Program development
- Program monitoring
- Budget development
- Evaluating program outcomes
- Volunteer development
- Other _____

Community Engagement

- Cultural asset mapping
- Community organizing
- Establishing collaborative relationships
- Establishing coalitions
- Nonprofit and Tribal relationships
- Other _____

The Youth Leaders in Service program will comprise of one four-day session August 1-4, 2011 with two additional weekend training during the program cycle. The cost of travel, lodging, food, and all instruction to each training is included as a participant in the Youth Leaders in Service program.

Please add any suggestions for this training or additional information about your organization on the back of this page that will help us prepare a program for you.

Thank you for completing this application! Sincerely, YLS Program Organizers