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PART-TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE YSOP WORKCAMP LEADERS

The **Youth Service Opportunities Project (YSOP)** is a Quaker founded organization which has engaged young people in volunteer community service since 1983. In recent years, our volunteers have focused on aiding soup kitchens, drop-in centers, food, clothing and furniture banks, shelters, and recreational programs that serve homeless and hungry people. Last year YSOP involved more than 4,639 high school and college students and young adults. YSOP volunteers provided vital service to approximately 504,700 hungry and homeless people in New York City.

Location: YSOP offers programs in New York City and Washington, DC. In New York, Workcamps are at the Friends Meeting House in Manhattan at 15 Rutherford Place, between 15th and 16th Street, 1 block East of Third Avenue. In Washington, DC, Workcamps are at the Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G Street, NW.

Specific Duties: Under supervision of YSOP's NY and DC Program Managers, 2 part-time Workcamp Leaders staff each Workcamp. Leaders are responsible for all programmatic and logistical details for each program, including oversight of meal preparation, supervision of adult volunteers, assuring the safety of our student participants, as well as leadership of orientation and reflective activities and participation in direct service work. Most Workcamps are for 1 night; YSOP also sponsors 1 day Service Days, and weeklong Service Weeks. In Washington DC, groups may stay at YSOP headquarters for up to 1 week.

The YSOP Experience:

Taking part in a YSOP Workcamp is an intense, challenging community experience. Each Workcamp typically involves about 25-50 students and adults. The student volunteers, with adult supervision, spend 2 days working, learning, and reflecting on their experiences in a supportive atmosphere. Part of the YSOP experience is living in a simple manner. Workcampers, students and adults, sleep in sleeping bags on the floor, eat modest meals, and do without showers.

Typically, service begins the first evening when our volunteers prepare and share an evening meal with homeless people who sleep in shelters nearby. Later students meet with a resource person involved in direct service or advocacy, who draws them into a discussion of the causes of homelessness and hunger, society's response, and YSOPers' own feelings about these issues. The next morning after preparation and orientation for service, Workcampers are divided into small teams, each with an adult mentor, and assigned to various service worksites. YSOP volunteers serve all day at soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, recreation programs for young children, clothing and furniture banks. Everyone returns to YSOP later in the afternoon to share their experiences of the day. The Workcamp concludes with time for participants to reflect on their experiences and relate the Workcamp to their everyday lives. Reflection is a vital part of YSOP, enabling young volunteers to interpret, assess, and respond to the challenges they are facing.

At the conclusion of the Workcamp, the Leaders inspect the headquarters to insure that supplies are in order and the facilities are clean. They also prepare a report about the Workcamp for the Program Director. Occasionally programs are for 2 nights, ending at 11am on the morning of the third day.

YSOP also sponsors 1 day and weeklong service experiences with varying hours for staff. Opportunities may also exist for consulting on other projects for YSOP and AmeriCorps.

Qualifications for Workcamp Leaders:

- 4 or more years of post-high school work experience or college degree.
- Compatibility with the principles and philosophy of YSOP, including commitment to volunteer service of people neglected by our society and alleviating social problems through nonviolent change.
- Previous experience working with teenagers and a willingness to act as a disciplined, caring and communicative leader.
- A friendly and outgoing manner; the ability to think on one's feet and be resourceful.
- Previous volunteer service experience in high school, college or community is preferred.
- Previous experience as an adult volunteer on a YSOP Workcamp (*must be arranged prior to staff service*).
- Strong support for YSOP's philosophy that all our programs are alcohol, drug, and tobacco free. Staff must also undergo a national criminal background check conducted by YSOP.

Time Commitments:

For 1 night Workcamps, service is approximately from 4pm the first day to 5:00pm the second day. Service Days and Service Weeks have varying hours. In addition, Leaders must be available for telephone pre-Workcamp planning and post-Workcamp review. Each Workcamp Leader will serve on at least 1 Workcamp as an apprentice to an experienced staff Leader. The number of Workcamps each staff member leads is dependent upon time availability. Staff members are also to attend staff meetings on occasional evenings throughout the year. YSOP Workcamps typically occur on weekends and Thursdays to Fridays, but occasionally are held on other weekdays. In Washington DC there is also the opportunity to serve as an Overnight Host for groups staying at YSOP headquarters.

Salary: \$175 per 1 night Workcamp;
\$100 per Service Day; \$50 per Service dinner; \$25 per staff meeting.
\$75 per night as DC Overnight Host.
There are no additional benefits.

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YSOP seeks a staff with varied racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds. We do not discriminate against persons on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, national origin, citizenship status or age. The existence of a disability or of a criminal conviction history is considered only to the extent that it would impede the performance of a function essential to a particular position.