

STEPPING STONES MUSEUM FOR CHILDREN

Youth Enrichment Application (2015)

Thank you for expressing interest in our Youth Enrichment at Stepping Stones (*YES²*) program. Designed specifically for students in grades 6-12, *YES²* will provide you with an opportunity to gain valuable skills while contributing to your community. In addition to performing voluntary work in a fun and creative environment, we will be offering you new, exciting and unique cultural, theater and early childhood education related experiences throughout the coming year. We are growing and so are the opportunities for youth in our program!

What you can do as a *YES²* participant

- Museum volunteer activities including helping in the galleries and at events
- Global Studies and Art program
- Clubs for a variety of interests
- Performance and video opportunities
- Various events and workshops specifically for *YES²* participants, including movie nights and public speaking workshops.

Responsibilities may include (but are not limited to):

- Helping visitors engage in new and exciting play in exhibit and activity areas.
- Setting a positive example for other youth and visiting children.
- Following directions given by staff supervisors and mentors.
- Working as a team with all staff and volunteers.

To qualify, you must be:

- A student in grades 6-12.
- Able to learn and communicate information to museum visitors.
- Friendly, outgoing and patient with children and adults.
- Able to make good decisions and ask for help when necessary.

Time commitment includes:

- A minimum commitment of 10 hours per month.
- Attendance at monthly trainings and meetings.
- Participation in offered workshops and programming.

IMPORTANT! Your acceptance into the *YES²* Program will be based on this application and the degree to which you address your:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| ✓ ability to make good choices | ✓ communication skills | ✓ leadership potential |
| ✓ ability to work with others | ✓ creativity | ✓ positive attitude |
| ✓ acceptance of differences | ✓ enthusiasm | ✓ problem-solving skills |

If you are interested in applying, return the completed application and Parental Permission Form to Stepping Stones. Please call **Dod March**, Youth Program Manager at (203) 899-0606 ext. 277 if you have any questions. *We look forward to hearing from you!*

Directions for Parent: Acceptance into the *YES²* Program is based on your child's ability to meet specific criteria. It is very important that your son/daughter completes the entire application independently. As it may be the first time he or she is completing a form, we ask that you review the application when done to ensure that all questions have been answered and that the responses fully reflect the applicant's skills.

Directions for Applicant: Please be sure to answer all questions on the application and to use very clear, printed handwriting. Return the completed application AND the parent permission form to: Youth Programs Manager, Stepping Stones Museum for Children, Mathews Park, 303 West Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06850.

Name: _____
First Middle Last Nickname

Address: _____
Street Apartment #

City State Zip

Phone: _____
Home Cell

Birth date: _____ Email address: _____

Current school: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian name(s) residing at above address:

1. _____ Relationship: _____ Email: _____ Cell: _____

2. _____ Relationship: _____ Email: _____ Cell: _____

An additional contact name is required in the event your transportation is more than 15 minutes past your pick-up time.

1. _____ Relationship: _____ Cell: _____

List any extracurricular activities in which you are involved.

Please rate yourself on the following topics:

	Good	Great	Outstanding	How did you learn about Stepping Stones?
Ability to make good choices	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Communication skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend/Family
Leadership potential	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Flyer
Ability to work with others	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Internet
Creativity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Local resident
Positive attitude	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper
Acceptance of differences	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Enthusiasm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Problem-solving skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Please remember that your acceptance is partially based on your responses. Take a few minutes to think through your answers before writing them down.

Name a place that you really enjoy visiting.

What do you like about that place?

Describe one memorable experience you have had with a child or children.

“You must *be* the change you want to see in the world” Gandhi

Why do you want to volunteer your time?

(continued on back)

References

References may be called to provide us with a better idea of your skills. List two adults, *who are not family members*, who can be contacted to provide a reference for you (neighbor, teacher, guidance counselor, etc.).

1. _____ Daytime Phone: _____

2. _____ Daytime Phone: _____

Availability

Indicate when you are available to volunteer by writing “yes” or “no” in the blank spaces.

Mondays	_____	Saturdays	_____
Tuesdays	_____	Sundays	_____
Wednesdays	_____	Evenings	_____
Thursdays	_____	Holidays	_____
Fridays	_____		

How did you hear about Youth Enrichment at Stepping Stones?

Commitment & Code of Conduct

If I become a part of this program I understand that I am committing to participate for a minimum of 10 hours per month.

As a YES² participant I will be a very important member of the Stepping Stones team. When I am at Stepping Stones, I will do my best to treat visitors and fellow team members with courtesy and respect. I will play a part in making sure that Stepping Stones is a safe place for everybody.

- I will use appropriate language at Stepping Stones.
- I will do my best to make good choices by not running, initiating water fights, playing tag or roughhousing.
- I will focus on my responsibilities by not bringing friends or siblings to Stepping Stones during my shifts.
- I will be respectful of materials and I will use exhibits appropriately.
- I will adhere to my daily schedule and ask supervisors for permission to take a break so the staff always knows where I am.
- I will not be afraid to say “I don’t know” and to ask for help from the Stepping Stones staff!

Your Signature

Date

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The YES² Program, and the outstanding youth that participate, plays a vital role in fulfilling the Stepping Stones mission. Every day, these bright faces interact with children, caregivers, staff and volunteers to enhance the visitor experience.

YES² staff and peer advisors evaluate the applicant's interests as well as their abilities to determine if our program is the right fit. It is important to note, however, that not every applicant is accepted at the time they apply. In some instances, some youth have thrived after taking another year to develop certain skills.

The support of parents and guardians is represented in the applicant's level of participation and is thus important to the overall success of the program. We realize that your role is much more than providing transportation to and from the museum for shifts, classes and monthly trainings. The museum sincerely appreciates your involvement and looks forward to receiving your son or daughter's application.

Sincerely,

Dod March
Youth Programs Manager

Please review the following points, and complete the spaces below.

- I understand that my son/daughter's responsibilities will include volunteering in the museum galleries where they will have direct contact with caregivers, children and exhibit content.
- I understand that my son/daughter will be expected to commit to participate in museum programs that total at least seven hours a month for any nine months of the year.
- I understand that my son/daughter is expected to participate in monthly trainings.
- I have reviewed my son/daughter's application and understand the Code of Conduct signed by my son/daughter.
- I understand that I can contact program advisors at any time with questions.

Printed name of Parent/Guardian

Printed name of son/daughter

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date