



SHIELD Saturday Leadership Academy (SSLA) ***2019 Youth Application***

PROGRAM DATES: February 1, 2020 – April 25, 2020 (12-Week Program)

The program runs from February to April and is structured around weekly group mentoring sessions.

EARLY DEADLINE: ~~November 2, 2019~~ December 21, 2019 (extended)

FINAL APPLICATION DEADLINE: January 4, 2020

**Participant Fee: \$175 for the entire 12-week program. Payment plans available.
(cost includes t-shirt, all meals, program materials and closing ceremony)**

***** Participation fee waivers are available based upon financial need. Please fill out the [scholarship application](#) to apply.*****

This opportunity is open to 45 youth participants and preference will be given on a first-come, first-served basis during the selection process.

Thank you for your interest in joining the SHIELD Mentor Program! Currently, we are seeking a select group of new participants to join our program for the *SHIELD Saturday Leadership Academy*. Youth participants in grades 4-12 in Greensboro and the surrounding area with a commitment to strengthening their leadership skills can register to participate. Please learn about our program, including the required time commitment and registration fee, before applying.

It is very important that you read all of this information because we want to make sure your youth participant has an opportunity to participate in our *SHIELD Saturday Leadership Academy* and not be left out.

Youth who participate in the program have the opportunity to:

- ❖ develop valuable leadership skills
- ❖ observe the qualities of communication, teamwork and leadership in their environment
- ❖ understand the difference between leadership and power
- ❖ learn more about the Greensboro community
- ❖ achieve an enhanced sense of self and the impact one can have on the community
- ❖ gain confidence in communication and public speaking
- ❖ learn more ways to be involved and make a difference
- ❖ gain new friends and connections

[To apply, submit an application online.](#)



Recruitment & Selection Timetable

The following are key dates to remember:

Save the Date for Open House!

**McGirt Horton Library
2501 Phillips Ave
Greensboro, NC 27405**

December 21, 2019 from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

[RSVP](#)

Please join us for an information session and light snacks. It is a great way for you and your child to find out all about the activities that we will do during the *SHIELD Saturday Leadership Academy*! SHIELD staff will discuss the program, review the application process and answer questions. Those in attendance will receive guaranteed acceptance.

October 5, 2019– January 4, 2020

Applications Open

Recruitment of participant's applications (first come, first serve basis consideration during the selection process)

~~November 2, 2019~~ **December 21, 2019 (extended)**

Early Bird Registration Deadline – Save \$50

January 4, 2020

Final Application Deadline

January 18, 2020

Participants Announced

Accepted volunteer staff and youth participant letters received.

February 1, 2020

SAVE THE DATE

Kick-off/Orientation Meeting

Location: UNCG campus

Participant Registration

Required orientation for participants and parents will be held from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM.

NOTE: Details will be included in acceptance letter.



What are the expectations for my youth participant to participate in the SHIELD Saturday Leadership Academy?

In order to keep your youth participant's spot through the *SHIELD Saturday Leadership Academy*, they will be expected to fully participate. Youth participants who choose not to follow these expectations will not be able to participate in our *SHIELD Saturday Leadership Academy*.

To successfully complete the program, youth participants are expected to attend all sessions and to fully participate, including mandatory orientation, mentoring activities and closing ceremony. The program requires a 12-week long commitment. Any participant who misses two or more of the required workshops will be asked to withdraw from the program. The schedule is outlined below:

STRENGTHEN	HELP	INSPIRE	ENCOURAGE
Session 1: Getting Started February 1, 2020 Session 2: Self-Awareness February 8, 2020 Session 3: Relationship-Building February 15, 2020	Session 4: Vision Your Future February 22, 2020 Session 5: Goal Setting February, 29 2020 Session 6: Aligning Behaviors March 7, 2020	Session 7: Career Exploration March 14, 2020 Session 8: Connecting with Education March 21, 2020 Session 9: Leadership Training March 28, 2020	Session 10: Problem-Solving April 4, 2020 Session 11: Social Change April 18, 2020 Session 12: Closing Ceremony April 25, 2020

To successfully complete the *SHIELD Saturday Leadership Academy* and become eligible for a completion award, a participant **MUST** attend the Opening Session and Closing Ceremony and miss no more than (two) of the sessions.

How do I sign my child up?

Applications will be available online. This means signing up ahead of time to save a spot for your child. This is important because we will only offer limited spots for all youth grades 4-12.

What if registration is full?

The registration system we have in place keeps count of the number of available spots and automatically begins the process for wait listing. Applications received once the slots are full will be placed on a waitlist in the order received. If a spot becomes available, you will be contacted automatically with further instructions on how to reserve your youth participant's spot. This is why it is important to apply as soon as possible to have your best chance of securing a spot for your youth participant.



What is the selection and notification process?

The following diverse group of up to 45 youth participants chosen from grades 4-12 will be selected for each grade level:

- **Grades 4-5** – junior participants help bring energy to the discussion. Having early leadership discussions help younger participants prepare a roadmap for success sooner rather than later.
- **Grades 6-8** – our programs have been historically geared toward this target population of youth. In order to continue to provide a high level of focus on the achievements of our middle school participants, we are able to bridge the gap for high dropout rates and low academic performance.
- **Grades 9-12** – freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors will join on a leadership capacity and will form a leadership committee for the overall program and will assist in planning the end of year ceremony with a \$250 budget. Volunteer hours will be included for participation.

Upon receipt of application materials, an acknowledgment email will be sent to the applicant. After your application has been processed, you will be asked to review, complete and return important forms (i.e. medical release forms, rules and regulations forms, and enrollment agreement) and required payments to the SHIELD Mentor Program by specified dates. Upon completion of formal admission to the program, you will be mailed a confirmation letter and a welcome packet, which includes detailed information about the *SHIELD Saturday Leadership Academy* to which you have been admitted.

After receiving your acceptance letter, the deadline to secure your child's acceptance into the program will be on February 1, 2020 by attending the orientation.

How much does it cost?

The Participation Fee is \$175 (non-refundable) and covers the cost of snacks, t-shirt, leadership materials and the closing ceremony for each participant. Other items and supplies are made possible with the support of our community donors, partners and sponsors. Upon completion, participants will receive a completion award and SHIELD portfolio notebook.

Are there any discounts or scholarships?

Scholarships

Scholarships are available based on financial need. We try to accommodate as many students as possible. **Please fill out the [scholarship application](#) to apply.** Limited funds are available.

Sibling Discounts

For participants who have an immediate family member living in the same household and who submit their application by Saturday, January 4, 2020 will be eligible for a discount. You must inform us in writing (info@shieldmentor.org) that you are interested in the sibling discount for more details.



Early Bird Application Discounts

We offer early application discounts. To be eligible for the discount, the online portion of the application must be complete and the nonrefundable registration fee of \$50 must be paid by the deadline. Apply before Saturday, ~~November 2, 2019~~ December 21, 2019 (**extended**) and automatically receive **\$50 OFF** (\$25 off first and last payment).

How do I pay?

Payment can be made online or by check during the online application process. You will be prompted to select your payment option.

If paying by check, please make checks out to the SHIELD Mentor Program with “Leadership” in the memo line. You may choose to pay in full or use the payment plan below:

- ☐ **EARLY BIRD PARTICIPATION FEE = \$125 (Application must be received by ~~November 2, 2019~~ December 21, 2019 (**extended**) to receive the \$50 discount)**
 - 1st Payment: Non-refundable \$50 registration fee paid no later than ~~November 2, 2019~~ December 21, 2019 (**extended**)
 - 2nd Payment: \$50 paid upon February 1, 2020 during orientation
 - 3rd Payment: \$25 paid upon March 7, 2020
- ☐ **FINAL DEADLINE PARTICIPATION FEE = \$175 (Applications received between December 22, 2019 through January 4, 2020)**
 - 1st Payment: Non-refundable \$75 registration fee paid upon January 4, 2020
 - 2nd Payment: \$50 paid upon February 1, 2020 during orientation
 - 3rd Payment: \$50 paid upon March 7, 2020
- ☐ Scholarships are available based upon the number of available spots and financial need. **Please fill out the [scholarship application](#) to apply.**

The cost of the program must be paid in full no later Saturday, March 7, 2020. Failure to meet payment schedules could forfeit your child's place in the program. Forms of payment include credit card, check, and cash. ALL FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.

For any questions concerning our SHIELD Saturday Leadership Academy, registration, or anything else in this application packet, please contact us at info@shieldmentor.org.

SHIELD Mentor Program, founded in January of 2008, is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization that provides a full range of mentoring programs and services, providing the skills for success in leadership development. The structure of the mentoring programs creates an atmosphere that is designed to decrease the limitations in the lives of youth to help them become more likely to fulfill their highest



potential. The mission of the SHIELD Mentor Program is to Strengthen, Help, Inspire and Encourage Leadership Development by delivering structured mentoring activities and programs for young people. Youth live in a world full of wonderful opportunities; the goal is to give them proper guidance to obtain them.