







# Eagle Merit Program

► The SHIELD Experience – our youth participants will go through the life cycle of the eagle as they develop from childhood into adulthood. Youth participants can earn badges and move up in the organization based on completion of the following stages.

Group Name	Eligibility	Descriptions	Activities	Meeting Dates
 New Youth Participants– the newly hatched eaglets	Point of entry program for all youth participants	New youth participants are enrolled in the SHIELD Saturday Leadership Academy (12-week leadership intensive program) to be eligible to continue participating in our programs and services.  OPTIONAL: Returning youth participants are welcome to serve as peer mentors to help lead discussions during the leadership intensive program.	❖ SHIELD Portfolio ❖ Vision Board	Every Saturday February 6 – April 24, 2021
 Mentoring Cluster I – eaglets preparing to leave the nest	5th graders	Youth will work in mentoring clusters to work on community initiatives such as homelessness prevention, childhood literacy, sustainable foods, etc.	❖ Action Plan ❖ Hunger and Homeless Awareness ❖ Day of Service	Every 4th Saturday • Feb 27, 2021 • Mar 27, 2021 • April 24, 2021 – AWARDS CEREMONY  <b>Must attend orientation on February 6, 2021.</b>  Mentoring contact hours will be fulfilled through in-school and SHIELD-approved mentoring activities.
 Mentoring Cluster II – eaglets leaving the nest for the first time	6th graders	Youth will work in mentoring clusters to work on community initiatives such as homelessness prevention, childhood literacy, sustainable foods, etc.	❖ Action Plan ❖ Hunger and Homeless Awareness ❖ Day of Service	Every 4th Saturday • Feb 27, 2021 • Mar 27, 2021 • April 24, 2021 – AWARDS CEREMONY  <b>Must attend orientation on February 6, 2021.</b>  Mentoring contact hours will be fulfilled through in-school and SHIELD-approved mentoring activities.

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	Eligibility	Descriptions	Activities	Monthly Leadership Meeting Dates
	7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> graders	Youth participants will begin to build public speaking skills and public service skills to show exemplary leadership within the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Types of Leadership</li> <li>❖ Public Speaking</li> <li>❖ Speech Writing Skills</li> </ul>	Every 3rd Saturday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feb 20, 2021</li> <li>• Mar 20, 2021</li> <li>• Apr 17, 2021</li> <li>• April 24, 2021 – AWARDS CEREMONY</li> </ul> Must attend orientation on February 6, 2021.
	9 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> graders	Youth participants will develop an entrepreneurial mindset and begin to learn how to manage money. They will present their learning by developing and presenting a mock business plan with a budget.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Entrepreneurship and Financial Literacy Program</li> <li>❖ Business Plan</li> <li>❖ Professional Marketing Materials</li> <li>❖ Business Fair and Retail Booths</li> </ul>	Every 2nd Saturday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feb 13, 2021</li> <li>• Mar 23, 2021</li> <li>• Apr 10, 2021</li> <li>• April 24, 2021 – AWARDS CEREMONY</li> </ul> Must attend orientation on February 6, 2021.
	11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> graders	Youth participants will serve on the youth leadership board to help direct the future of the organization and serve in a leadership position. Youth participants interact with local businesses for on-site visits. Upon completion, youth participants will develop a plan for the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Plans for Future</li> <li>❖ Tour Local Businesses</li> </ul>	Every 1st Saturday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mar 6, 2021</li> <li>• Apr 3, 2021</li> <li>• April 24, 2021 – AWARDS CEREMONY</li> </ul> Must attend orientation on February 6, 2021.