



2021 SHIELD Saturday Leadership Academy (SSLA) ***Program Details***

PROGRAM DATES: February 6, 2021 – April 24, 2021 (12-Week Program)

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

\$125 - EARLY DEADLINE

(Applications received by November 22, 2020 at 11:59 PM)

\$175 - FINAL APPLICATION

(Applications received between November 23, 2020 - January 17, 2021)

Participant Fee: Cost includes a t-shirt, program materials, and online access for the entire 12-week program.

Payment plans available.

***** Participation fee assistance is available based upon financial need. Please email info@shieldmentor.org for more information. *****

This opportunity is open to new 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 new participants to join our program for the *SHIELD Saturday Leadership Academy (SSLA)*. Youth participants in grades 4-12 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 particularly important that you read all of the information because we want to make sure your child has an opportunity to participate in our *SSLA* and not be left out.

Youth who participate in the program will:

- ❖ develop valuable leadership skills
- ❖ observe the qualities of communication, teamwork and leadership in their environment
- ❖ understand the difference between leadership and power
- ❖ 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

Recruitment of participant's applications (first come, first serve basis consideration during the selection process). The following are key dates to remember:

Save the Date for Virtual Open House! September 19, 2020 @ 1:00 PM

[RSVP](#)

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

Save the Date for Virtual Open House! November 21, 2020 @ 1:00 PM

[RSVP](#)

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

November 22, 2020

Early Bird Registration Deadline – Save \$50

Save the Date for Virtual Open House! December 12, 2020 @ 1:00 PM

[RSVP](#)

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

Save the Date for Virtual Open House! January 16, 2021 @ 1:00 PM

[RSVP](#)

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

January 17, 2021

Final Application Deadline

January 31, 2021

Participants Announced

Accepted volunteer staff and youth participant letters received.

February 6, 2021

SAVE THE DATE

Kick-off/Orientation Meeting

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.

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



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

In order to keep your child’s spot through the *SSLA*, they will be expected to fully participate. The program requires a 12-week long commitment. 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. Youth participants who choose not to follow these expectations will not be able to receive a certificate of completion in our *SHIELD Saturday Leadership Academy*. Any participant who misses two or more of the required workshops will be asked to reenroll into the program. The schedule is outlined below:

STRENGTHEN	HELP	INSPIRE	ENCOURAGE
 Session 1: Getting Started February 6, 2021	 Session 4: Vision Your Future February 27, 2021	 Session 7: Career Exploration March 20, 2021	 Session 10: Problem-Solving April 10, 2021
 Session 2: Self-Awareness February 13, 2021	 Session 5: Goal Setting March 6, 2021	 Session 8: Connecting with Education March 27, 2021	 Session 11: Social Change April 17, 2021
 Session 3: Relationship-Building February 20, 2021	 Session 6: Aligning Behaviors March 13, 2021	 Session 9: Leadership Training April 3, 2021	 Session 12: Closing Ceremony April 24, 2021

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 child’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 child.

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



What is the selection and notification process?

The following diverse group of youth participants 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. To continue to provide an elevated level of focus on the achievements of our middle school participants, we can 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.

Upon receipt of the 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 *SSLA* 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 6, 2021 by attending the mandatory parent orientation.

How much does it cost?

The Participation Fee is \$175 (non-refundable) and covers the cost of a t-shirt, program materials and the online platform 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?

Fee Assistance

Fee assistance is available based on financial need. We try to accommodate as many spots as possible. Please complete the [online form](#) for consideration. Limited funds are available.

Sibling Discounts

For participants who have an immediate family member living in the same household and who submit their applications by Saturday, January 17, 2021 will be eligible for a sibling 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 November 22, 2020 deadline. Apply before Saturday, November 22, 2020 and automatically receive **\$50 OFF** (\$25 off first and last payment).

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



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. You may choose to pay in full or use the payment plan below:

- **OPTION 1: EARLY BIRD PARTICIPATION FEE = \$125 (Application must be received by November 22, 2020 to receive the \$50 discount)**
 - 1st Payment: Non-refundable \$50 registration fee paid no later than November 22, 2020
 - 2nd Payment: \$50 paid upon February 6, 2021 during orientation
 - 3rd Payment: \$25 paid upon March 6, 2021
- **OPTION 2: FINAL DEADLINE PARTICIPATION FEE = \$175 (Applications received between November 23, 2020 through January 17, 2021)**
 - 1st Payment: Non-refundable \$75 registration fee paid upon January 17, 2021
 - 2nd Payment: \$50 paid upon February 6, 2021 during orientation
 - 3rd Payment: \$50 paid upon March 6, 2021
- **OPTION 3: Fee assistance is available based upon the number of available spots and financial need. Please complete the [online form](#) for consideration.**

The cost of the program must be paid in full no later Saturday, March 6, 2021. Failure to meet payment schedules could lose your child's place in the program. Forms of payment include credit card, check, and cash. ALL FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.

If paying by check, please make checks out to the SHIELD Mentor Program with "SSLA" in the memo line. Please make checks payable to SHIELD Mentor Program and mail to 3125 Kathleen Ave. #218 Greensboro, NC (North Carolina) 27408 by the registration deadline. Your application is NOT COMPLETE without securing the registration fee. For any questions, please email info@shieldmentor.org.

If you would like to help ensure any family can take part in our programs, consider making a tax-deductible donation to the [Fee Assistance Fund](#). These funds will be redistributed to cover program fees for families unable to afford the full cost. Thank you for helping make our programs accessible to all!

[MAKE A GIFT](#)

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.

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