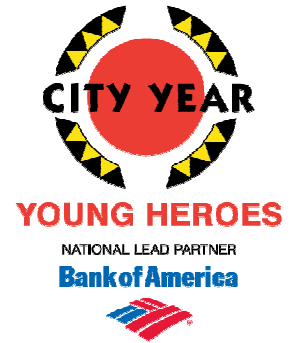


Young Heroes FAQ



What is City Year?

City Year is a non-profit organization that unites young people of all backgrounds for a year of full-time service, giving them the skills and opportunities to change the world. City Year Corps members work in Chicago communities serving as tutors, mentors, and role models.

What is Young Heroes?

Young Heroes is a free Saturday service learning program for middle-school youth which is run by City Year Corps members. Young Heroes participants learn about the social issues in their community and then work together to solve those problems through hands-on community service. Each Saturday is dedicated to a different topic. Students spend the morning in activities, discussions and workshops related to the topic of the day and do related service in the afternoon. The program helps students to develop into civic leaders with a sense of courage, compassion, cooperation, and commitment.

When is the first Young Heroes event?

Heroes Training Academy, also known as HTA, will take place afterschool on December 12th and will conclude the afternoon of December 13th. This is an overnight event. If it is absolutely impossible for a student to attend HTA there will be a condensed version of the training on January 17th. We encourage students to attend Heroes Training Academy in December as it will give them an opportunity to meet their peers in the program.

Where do the students come from?

The majority of our students are recruited from our nine partner schools, Howe School of Excellence, Morton School of excellence, Spencer Math and Science Academy, James R. Doolittle East, University of Chicago—Donoghue Campus, University of Chicago—North Kenwood/Oakland, William Claude Reavis Elementary, Jacques Marquette Elementary, and Harvard School of Excellence. We are diversifying our program this year by reaching out to a variety of other public, magnet, charter, and private schools throughout the city. Any 6th, 7th, or 8th grader in the Chicago area is encouraged to apply.

How many Heroes will be enrolled in the program?

We accept as many as 150 middle school students.

What time will the program begin and end each Saturday?

A bus will pick students up between 7:30 and 8:00am on Saturdays. Programming will begin by 9:00am. Students will load the buses to return home between 3:00 and 4:00pm. The buses will return them to the same place as their pick-up location.

Where will students be picked up and dropped off?

Buses will pick students up from a school in their neighborhood. Pick-up locations from last year include our eight partner schools. We will do our best to make sure our buses accommodate students coming from any area of the city.

Who will be supervising?

City Year Corps Members and Staff supervise students in the program. City Year's first priority is always safety. The Young Heroes program will have as many as 30 adult chaperones at every event in order to maintain a 5 to 1 ratio of students to staff. Every chaperone completes a background check prior to participating with the Young Heroes program. Young Heroes are kept in school buildings or at service sites at all times and are identified by the yellow vests that we distribute to them. Young Heroes are transported by bus to and from every location that we visit.

What if parents have concerns?

We will be holding three parent information sessions on Saturday December 6th. Parents can also contact Megan Brown at mbrown09@cityyear.org or 312-423-1087 if they have additional questions.

What happens if students cannot attend a Saturday?

We hope that students can make it to most if not all of the events, but we understand that this is not always possible. Young Heroes can miss no more than three Saturday events in order to successfully graduate from the Young Heroes program.

When is the Young Heroes application due?

December 1st

What does the application process require?

Students are required to submit a recommendation from a teacher, volunteer coordinator, coach or mentor with their application. They will also need to have a parent or guardian sign their application.

What should students do with the application once they have completed it?

1. Turn it into any City Year Corps Member.
2. Send it to our offices at
City Year Chicago.
Attn: Megan Brown
36 South Wabash, Suite 1500
Chicago IL.60603
3. Give it to a designated teacher, counselor, or principal who will be collecting applications.

What happens after a student completes his or her application?

A City Year Corps Member will contact the applicant to set up a time for his or her interview.