



Wisdom Projects, Inc.



2023-2024 Youth Peacemaker Program

We believe that lasting peace is cultivated in the home and the family while branching out into the neighborhood. The **Youth Peacemakers Program** for youth aged 14-18 is a joint pilot violence prevention program of the Baltimore Wisdom Project and the McKim Center. The purpose of the program is to empower select youth in the East Baltimore community to become peace ambassadors while affording them job-readiness, character-building, financial management, and life-coping skills.

Requirements

- Youth practice and spread principles and strategies for peacemaking learned in training and overviewed at <https://baltimorewisdomproject.org/peacemaking>. Training focuses on de-escalation, conflict studies,
- Youth **must be enrolled** in the **Athletics, STEM & Healing Arts Peacemaking** after school program at the McKim Center, and attend lessons at least one day a week. Additionally, youth peacemakers **must have an affinity for engaging affirmatively with younger children**. Youth work within the after-school program to mentor younger youth and assist with set-up, clean-up, and meal preparation.
- Youth also receive peer support in talk circles and one-on-one and/or group counseling to become effective caretakers for themselves, their communities, and their environments. During peer support sessions, youth share interpersonal experiences, feelings, and coping strategies in a trauma-sensitive and confidential manner to help each other find peace.
- Youth must attend **two hour-and-a-half-long trainings per year plus one job-readiness workshop**. They must **complete a grant writing project to prepare them for financial literacy and attend as well as authentically and fully participate in Amnesty Day on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 4:30-6 pm**.
- Youth peacemakers are compensated \$14-an-hour for the approved hours that they work. Youth will work with their supervisors to develop their work schedules. You are **not** paid for merely participating in the lessons of the after-school program and payment is only provided if they follow the directions of all adult teachers and coaches and abide by the program's regulations. **If youth do not work in the manner requested, then they may face termination and/or significant pay deductions.**
- Regulations: Youth peacemakers agree to always follow the Baltimore Wisdom Project's Policies (overviewed at <https://wisdomprojects.org/policies>) and the McKim Center's Code of Conduct (overviewed at <https://mckimcenter.org/code-of-conduct>). Both sets of regulations require 100% confidentiality.
- Illicit substance abuse and commerce often breeds familial and neighborhood violence. Thus, this program requires sobriety. Absolutely no use of impairing or altering drugs and alcohol (including marijuana) should be consumed during or at least 12 hours before program meetings. With our support, applicable youth should be on a serious path of recovery from addiction and substance use disorder.
- Peacemakers must be mindful of not causing disruptions of any kind during lessons, training, and meetings.
- Peacemakers must never engage in violence of any kind (verbal, physical, or emotional) and to model the principles and practices of peacemaking that are taught and valued in the program.
- Excellent punctuality, participation, and attendance is required for meetings.
- Peacemakers agree to attend the McKim Holiday Party and the McKim Community Games.

Important Dates

<p>The Athletics, STEM & Healing Arts Peacemaking After-School Program at the McKim Center Runs from Monday September 11, 2023 until Friday May 31, 2024. See the flier for more details.</p>	
<p>McKim Holiday Party: Friday December 15, 2023, 4-6 pm.</p>	<p>McKim Community Games: Saturday May 4, 2024, 9 AM to 3 pm.</p>
<p>Training: Friday November 10, 2023, 6:30-8 pm Friday February 9, 2023, 6:30-8 pm</p>	<p>Job Readiness Workshop: Friday October 20, 2023, 6:30-8 pm Grantmaking Project: http://www.youthasresources.org</p>
<p>Amnesty Day: Every 2nd Thursday, 4:30-6 pm in 2023-2024</p>	