

CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECT

Spring 2012

Civic Week

Serve in Communities • Explore a Career • Learn How to Make a Difference



Change the
world.
Start
here.



Center for
Talent
DEVELOPMENT®

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & SOCIAL POLICY



NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY

CivicWeek

Career-Focused Service-Learning Programs for Outstanding High School Students



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About the Civic Education Project

CivicWeek is an initiative of the Civic Education Project, an award-winning leadership and civic engagement program based at Northwestern University's Center for Talent Development (CTD).

The Civic Education Project (CEP) combines hands-on education and community service to promote civic responsibility among young people. Through innovative school-year programs and summer courses, CEP offers promising young people opportunities to learn and serve in communities across the country, developing the knowledge, experience and leadership skills they need to make a positive impact on society.

CEP offers weeklong service-learning immersion programs during the academic year for students in grades 9 through 12, and intensive, three-week service-learning courses during the summer for students completing grades 7 through 12. Since the organization's founding in 1997, over 3,800 students have participated in 280 programs and courses and dedicated more than 95,000 total hours to service in host communities throughout the country.



Center for Talent
Development (CTD)
at Northwestern

University is accredited as a
supplementary school by the North
Central Association Commission on
Accreditation and School Improvement.

About CivicWeek

Past participants have

CivicWeek programs engage diverse groups of outstanding high school students in weeklong, career-focused service-learning immersion experiences in communities around the country.

Each program provides a unique opportunity for bright, motivated students to gain hands-on experience with important social issues while exploring careers that serve the public interest in fields like criminal justice, education reform, public health and urban development.

Under the supervision of trained CEP staff, groups of 14 to 18 students spend their days engaged in meaningful service and meetings with prominent professionals and community leaders. Evenings are filled with team building activities, thoughtful reflection on the issues the group is exploring, and of course, relaxation and fun.

CivicWeek challenges students not only to develop their individual talents, but to apply their skills and passions to make a difference in the world.

CivicWeek participants...

- Serve communities in need
- Gain valuable insight into career fields
- Learn about some of the nation's most pressing social problems and most promising solutions
- Develop stronger communication, interpersonal and leadership skills
- Earn service-learning credit hours
- Discover ways to become more active leaders and citizens in their schools and communities



Built a house for a family in need

Distributed hygiene kits from a mobile **health outreach bus**

Discussed urban policy at the **White House**

Been a **child's hero** for a day

Made lifelong **friendships**

Debated controversial school closings with Chicago Public School officials

Harvested fresh produce from an urban farm

Witnessed **government in action** on the U.S. Senate floor

Laughed a lot

Offered comfort and cheer at a **veterans hospital**

Led a **slam poetry** workshop at an elementary school

Observed **final arguments** of a state Supreme Court trial

Learned a lot

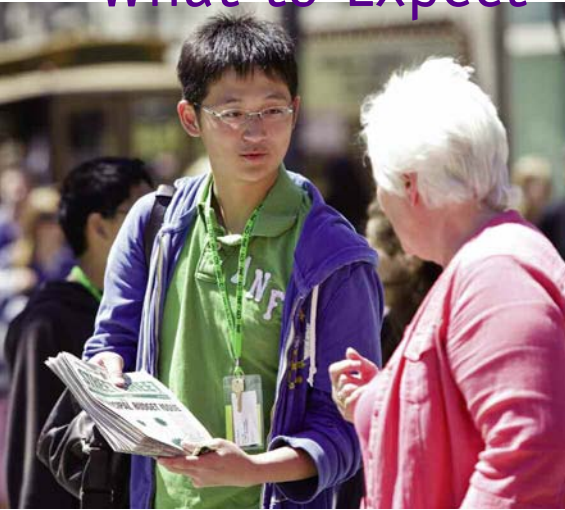
Met with **editors** of the *New York Times*

Restored wetlands in the Bay Area

Joined local youth at an *Education Not Incarceration* rally at city hall

Been **part of the solution**

What to Expect



While each CivicWeek program is unique, there are several main elements that are common to every student's experience:

Make a Difference

Service-Learning

Groups spend a significant portion of the week engaged in service projects with reputable local community organizations tackling complex social problems. Service projects vary according to the specific focus issue, but each allows meaningful opportunities for students to contribute to the work of the organization while learning from clients, staff and community members.

Learn by Doing

Career Exploration

Students receive a rare glimpse of behind-the-scenes work in the career field of their choice. They meet with professionals at the top of their disciplines in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. By witnessing and participating in the work of these experts firsthand, they develop a deeper understanding of the challenges facing each field and the issues shaping its future.

Challenge Perspectives

Reflection

Staff members facilitate reflection each evening to give students an opportunity to process the events of the day. Activities such as discussions, debates and journal writings help students connect what they are seeing and experiencing to broader lessons about social issues, leadership and civic engagement.

Immerse Yourself

Community Living

CivicWeek participants are housed at community organizations or retreat centers in the heart of their host communities. Housing arrangements vary, but accommodations are typically simple and retreat-style, with shared bathrooms, kitchens and common spaces. Groups travel primarily via public transit. Working in teams, students and staff prepare meals for each other each evening.

Develop Leadership

Team Building

CivicWeek programs provide a tremendous opportunity for students to connect with diverse, motivated peers from throughout the country. This learning community is facilitated in part through fun and challenging team building activities. Groups might have to navigate through an obstacle course or cross an imaginary lava lake, all the while building trust, learning leadership skills and discovering how to work as a team.

Have Fun

Recreation

While every day is quite full, groups always have time for relaxation and fun. Downtime each evening allows students to relax, unwind and socialize with their peers. In addition, each group has the opportunity to explore some of the city's most notable cultural and historical sites and top tourist attractions.

Lessons for a Lifetime

After the Program

CivicWeek programs prepare students for a lifetime of civic engagement. To that end, CEP provides program alumni with ongoing resources to help them stay informed about social issues, continue to engage in service and apply the lessons they've learned to their schools and communities.

Earn Service Hours

Credit & Service Hours

Center for Talent Development is an accredited institution. As such, CivicWeek participants may be eligible for high school credit and up to 40 hours of service-learning credit, depending on school guidelines.

Spring 2012 Programs

Topics, Dates & Locations

Politics & Urban Development

March 25 – March 31, 2012
Washington, DC

Public Health

March 25 – March 31, 2012
Chicago, IL

Education Policy & School Reform

April 1 – April 7, 2012
New York, NY

Law & Criminal Justice

April 1 – April 7, 2012
Chicago, IL
April 9 – April 15, 2012
New York, NY



This was one of
the **greatest**
learning
experiences
of my life.



Politics & Urban Development

March 25 – March 31, 2012
Washington, DC

American cities are some of the greatest in the world, but beyond the bustle and bright lights are local neighborhoods struggling with some of the nation's most intractable social problems. Participants examine poverty in urban America through the eyes of the many diverse populations affected. They meet with politicians and practitioners to explore contemporary and innovative approaches to urban development, addressing issues of housing, education, employment, health, safety and economic growth. By interacting with government and community leaders who are addressing these complex issues through public policy, students learn how to use politics as a tool for social change.

Urban Poverty in America...

Over **46 million** Americans are living in poverty

Among those who have experienced homelessness, **40%** are families with children

Spring 2012 Programs

continued

Public Health

March 25 – March 31, 2012

Chicago, IL

Our nation faces a growing struggle to attend to our individual and collective health care needs. Rising health care costs burden our economy, while a host of chronic and infectious diseases threaten our quality of life. Participants explore issues of public health through visits to cutting-edge medical facilities and neighborhoods underserved by health care resources. Students consider the challenges facing families and communities and work with professionals tackling health education, disease prevention and issues of equity. They examine contemporary policy debates and learn about ways to address public health issues in our neighborhoods and our nation.

Public Health in America...

Nearly **20%** of the U.S. population does not have access to health insurance

Children living in poverty are **twice** as likely to be in poor health and only **half** as likely to receive needed medical care



Safety & Conduct

The safety of CivicWeek participants is paramount at all times. We take every reasonable step to ensure the well-being of our students and staff, including:

- Hiring skilled staff members
- Working with established and well-respected host agencies
- Providing careful supervision
- Requiring a high standard of student conduct
- Safeguarding student health

For more details on our standards for Safety & Conduct, see www.CivicWeek.org

CivicWeek opened my
and changed
I would recommend it



Law & Criminal Justice

April 1 – April 7, 2012

Chicago, IL

April 9 – April 15, 2012

New York, NY

What is the appropriate response of a just society to crime and punishment? When there are significant racial and economic disparities in arrest and conviction rates, and even death row prisoners are sometimes found to be innocent, is our legal system consistently a force for justice? Participants examine the criminal justice system in America, from law enforcement to the courts to correctional agencies. Students visit with community advocates, legal clinics, attorneys and policy experts. They explore some of the problems and work with organizations making an impact. Most importantly, they learn about ways to use law and policy to build stronger communities and advance social justice.

Education Policy & School Reform

April 1 – April 7, 2012

New York, NY

Education has long been the great equalizer, the key to success. But as test scores in the U.S. fall behind those of other nations and the achievement gap grows, the problems with our public school system become more apparent. Participants get a close-up look at public education in America, at its problems and a range of proposed solutions, including school funding, accountability, teacher quality, charter schools, vouchers, and the role of parents and communities. They volunteer with public school students and work alongside educators and reformers. Students analyze education policy and approaches to reform, and discover ways young people can play a role in school improvement.

Criminal Justice in America...

The U.S. imprisons a **higher percentage** of its citizens than any other country in the world

African Americans and Latinos make up just **28%** of the total U.S. population, but over **60%** of the prison and jail population

Education in America...

Only **3 out of every 10** eighth graders in our public schools are reading at grade level

7,200 students **drop out** of high school **each day**



eyes and mind
my life.
in a heartbeat.

Eligibility & Admissions



It exceeded
my expectations
and helped me
grow in ways
I never
expected.

Eligibility

Each CivicWeek program brings together a diverse group of bright, motivated high school students with an interest in service and a desire to develop skills for leadership and civic engagement. CivicWeek is open to students who:

- are enrolled in grade 9, 10, 11 or 12;
- can demonstrate a high level of academic ability;
- have a sincere interest in learning about communities, social issues and civic engagement;
- are mature, responsible, respectful and highly motivated.

Application Requirements

All students must submit an application form and a brief essay. In addition, new applicants must submit a test score or grade report demonstrating *either*:

- a test score in the 95th percentile or above in reading or verbal on a nationally normed standardized achievement test *or*
- a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 or higher (on a 4.0 scale) on their most recent report card.

Students who do *not* meet the test score or GPA requirements above must *also* submit a recommendation form, which can be downloaded from our web site.

Prequalified Applicants

Returning students who have successfully completed any Civic Education Project program, or another Center for Talent Development course in the social sciences or humanities in grade 7 or above as part of the Summer Program, Saturday Enrichment Program or Gifted LearningLinks, do *not* need to submit a test score, grade report or recommendation form.

Dates & Placement

Often, CivicWeek programs coincide with students' spring breaks. However, some school schedules may not coincide, or students may simply have an interest in a topic that is not offered during their school break. Because CivicWeek is an educational program approved by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, many schools will excuse students from class in order to participate. This is a decision families should make in partnership with teachers and school administrators.

Students able to consider more than one program option should rank their placement preferences on the application. Accepted students are assigned to programs based on a variety of factors, including their placement preferences, the space available in each program and the composition of each group.

Application Process

Application Process

Students may submit an online application or download paper application materials from our web site at www.CivicWeek.org, or call our office at 847/467-2572 to request paper application materials by mail. All application materials must be received by **February 15, 2012**. Space in each program is limited, and programs often fill quickly. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, so **students are encouraged to apply early** to increase their chances of being accepted into the program of their choice.

Notification

Students are notified via e-mail of the status of their application within two weeks of receipt of a complete application. Accepted students receive admissions materials electronically at that time, with all relevant information about the program, including a detailed schedule, travel information, things to bring, and program rules and policies.

Late Applications

Late applications are accepted and considered as space in each program permits. Once a program is filled to capacity, qualified applicants may be placed on a waitlist. A \$50 late fee applies to applications received after February 15, 2012.



Tuition & Payment

Tuition

CivicWeek 2012 Tuition **\$1,125**

The tuition fee includes all program expenses:

- Six nights lodging and all student meals
- Service project materials and speaker fees
- Transportation to and from all program activities
- Staff instruction and 24-hour supervision
- Sightseeing and recreational expenses

Please note: Students are responsible for their own travel to and from the program site. CivicWeek offers a shuttle service to the site from the nearest major airport.

Payment Policies

- All applications must be accompanied by a non-refundable application fee of \$60 and a tuition deposit of \$200 for a total of \$260.
- Payments may be made by credit card or by check or money order made payable to *Center for Talent Development*.
- Applications received after February 15, 2012, must be accompanied by an additional non-refundable late fee of \$50.
- The remainder of the tuition balance is due upon the student's acceptance to the program. Students who do not pay their tuition balance as invoiced may lose their place in the program.

Refund Policies

- All requests for refunds and/or withdrawals must be made in writing, and may take up to eight weeks to process.
- The application fee of \$60 is not refundable under any circumstances.
- The initial tuition deposit of \$200 is refundable *only* if the student is not accepted into the program, all program choices are closed or canceled or the student cannot attend because of insufficient financial aid. The deposit is *not* refundable for students who receive one of their choices but not their first choice.
- The remaining tuition balance (beyond the initial tuition deposit) is refundable *only* if the student withdraws *in writing* two weeks before the program start date.
- Students who withdraw after the start of a program or are dismissed for disciplinary reasons are not eligible for any refund.

Financial Aid

Financial Aid

CEP aims to ensure that our programs are accessible to all students who wish to attend, regardless of financial circumstances. Thus, need-based financial aid is available.

Families seeking aid are encouraged to apply early, as funds are limited and are granted on a rolling basis. Families seeking aid are also encouraged to apply for the payment plan (see below right), as financial aid awards may not cover the entire tuition fee.

Aid awards are based on family income and extenuating circumstances. Requests for assistance typically exceed resources. The average adjusted gross income of families receiving aid in 2011 was under \$35,000. For this reason, families are discouraged from applying for financial aid if their adjusted gross income is greater than \$50,000.

Families who wish to apply for financial aid should submit a Financial Aid Application, which can be downloaded from our web site, along with all supporting documentation. Financial aid applicants are generally expected to pay the application fee and tuition deposit. Applicants will not be considered for financial aid until *all* application and financial aid materials have been received. An award letter reflecting the amount of financial aid granted and balance due will be sent electronically with the admissions materials.

Other Sources of Support

We strongly suggest that families with financial need also seek outside support. Accepted students should start soliciting additional funds right away. Schools, local religious or community organizations, businesses, local government offices, friends and relatives are all potential sources of support. Some students have successfully raised their entire tuition this way!



Payment Plan

A four-month payment plan option is available to all families. Families who do not apply for financial aid, or apply for but do not receive financial aid, are assessed a service charge of \$50 for using the payment plan. Families who wish to apply for the payment plan should submit a Payment Plan Application, which can be downloaded from our web site. The first payment is due upon acceptance to the program, and subsequent payments are due on the last business day of each month.

Important Dates

December 1

Applications are accepted
Students are encouraged to apply early

February 15

Application deadline
Late applications considered as space permits

Late February

(Or two weeks after receipt of application)
Admissions materials sent electronically

Early March

(Or two weeks after acceptance)
Tuition balance and all forms due

March 25–March 31

Politics & Urban Development
Washington, DC

Public Health
Chicago, IL

April 1–April 7

Education Policy & School Reform
New York, NY

Law & Criminal Justice
Chicago, IL

April 9–April 15

Law & Criminal Justice
New York, NY

CEP Summer Programs

Each summer, CEP partners with two of the nation's premier gifted education centers to offer three-week residential service-learning programs for outstanding middle and high school students. These innovative programs integrate challenging academic study, meaningful community service, hands-on field experiences, guest speakers, facilitated debates and discussions and an unforgettable pre-college residential experience for a summer that students often describe as "eye-opening" and "life-changing."

Civic Leadership Institute (Grades 10–12)

Offered on college campuses in Chicago (July 1–July 20), Baltimore (June 24–July 13), and San Francisco (July 15–August 3).

Taking Action: Leadership & Service (Grades 7–9)

Offered at Northwestern University and Johns Hopkins University for two sessions (June 24–July 13 and July 15–August 3).



Contact Us

For more information about CivicWeek or other CEP programs, contact:

Civic Education Project

Center for Talent Development
Northwestern University
617 Dartmouth Place
Evanston, IL 60208

Phone 847/467-2572
Fax 847/467-0880
E-mail cep@northwestern.edu
Web www.CivicWeek.org or
www.ctd.northwestern.edu/cep

Other CTD Programs

Center for Talent Development (CTD) at Northwestern University offers a range of year-round programs and services for academically gifted students (PreK–Grade 12) and their parents and teachers. Every program meets high standards that CTD has developed and refined during its 30 years of research and practice. Small class sizes and world-class university resources create a learning environment that is ideal for motivated, curious students ready to excel. CTD is accredited by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement.



Here is a selection of our offerings:

Gifted LearningLinks (Grades K–12)

Online courses for every member of the family allow bright students to set their own study pace and place. Family courses, enrichment courses, Honors/AP® courses and independent study options are available.

Saturday Enrichment Program (Grades PreK–9)

Gifted students look forward to weekend learning with sessions in the fall, winter and spring at four Chicagoland locations. Students pursue a chosen topic in depth through hands-on experimentation and enjoy interaction among their intellectual peers.

Summer Program (Grades PreK–12)

Learning continues once school adjourns for the year. Students can pursue special interests and develop their talents in a variety of subject areas through one, two or three-week courses that combine classroom instruction, hands-on learning and a whole lot of fun.

For more about these and other programs, visit www.ctd.northwestern.edu, e-mail ctd@northwestern.edu or call 847/491-3782.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Students associated with Center for Talent Development are afforded all privileges and held to all responsibilities of members of the Northwestern University community. Northwestern University and Center for Talent Development reserve the right to change without notice any statement in this brochure concerning, but not limited to, rules, policies, tuition, fees, curricula, courses and faculty. Northwestern University does not discriminate or permit discrimination by any member of its community against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, parental status, marital status, age, disability, citizenship or veteran status in matters of admissions, employment, housing or services, or in the educational programs or activities it operates. For advice or assistance regarding this policy, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access, 720 University Place, Evanston, Illinois 60208.

www.CivicWeek.org

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You'll never look at things the same way again.

Northwestern University
617 Dartmouth Place
Evanston, IL 60208-4175



The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed CivicWeek on the NASSP National Advisory List of Approved Student Contests and Activities for 2011–2012.

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