

CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECT

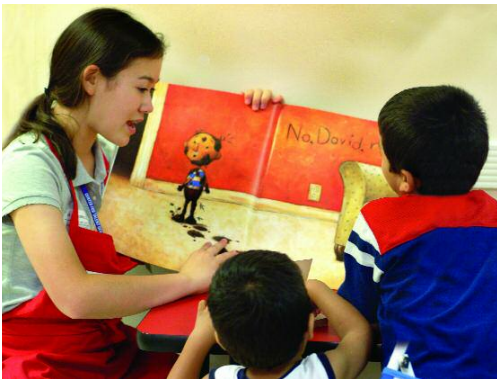
Fall 2011

Civic Weekend

A Service-Learning Immersion Program for Outstanding Middle School Students
In Partnership with the West Suburban Consortium for Academic Excellence



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NORTHWESTERN
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CivicWeekend

A Service-Learning Immersion Program for Outstanding Middle School Students
In Partnership with the West Suburban Consortium for Academic Excellence



Welcome

In partnership with the Civic Education Project, an award-winning leadership and civic engagement program based at Northwestern University's Center for Talent Development, the West Suburban Consortium for Academic Excellence (WSCAE) is pleased to offer students in its member school districts the opportunity to participate in this unique service-learning immersion experience.

About the WSCAE

The West Suburban Consortium for Academic Excellence (WSCAE) is an organization of 15 high performing school districts located in western Cook and eastern DuPage counties that collaborate regularly to provide opportunities that enhance student learning and the professional development of its teachers and administrators.

About the Civic Education Project

The Civic Education Project (CEP) is an award-winning leadership and civic engagement program for outstanding middle and high school students, based at Northwestern University's Center For Talent Development. 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.



Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University has been accredited as a supplementary school by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) since 1994.

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About the CivicWeekend

Modeled after CEP's popular weeklong CivicWeek programs for high school students, this CivicWeekend will bring together outstanding middle school students from throughout the western suburbs for an intense service-learning immersion experience in the heart of Chicago.

The program is designed to introduce students to contemporary social issues facing urban communities and to promote leadership and civic engagement among promising young people. Each group will spend a significant part of the weekend engaged in hands-on service with dynamic nonprofit organizations throughout the city.

Under the supervision of trained staff from the Civic Education Project, students will spend two days engaged in meaningful service work and meetings with community leaders. Those projects and experiences will be integrated with lessons and reflection activities facilitated by each staff team, as well as team building, relaxation and fun.

CivicWeekend participants...

- Serve communities in need
- Learn about some of the nation's most pressing social problems and most promising solutions
- Practice communication, interpersonal and leadership skills
- Discover ways to become more active leaders and citizens in their schools and communities



WSCAE CivicWeekend Fall 2011

**Friday, November 4 &
Saturday, November 5**
Chicago, Illinois

Tentative Schedule

Friday, November 4

- 8:00 am Registration
- 8:30 am Orientation
- 11:00 am Service Project
w/ Lunch Break
- 5:00 pm Dinner
- 6:30 pm Speakers & Reflection
- 9:00 pm Team Building
& Recreation
- 11:00 pm Lights Out

Saturday, November 5

- 7:00 am Wake Up & Breakfast
- 10:00 am Service Project
w/ Lunch Break
- 2:00 pm Workshop & Reflection
- 4:00 pm Closing
- 5:00 pm Check Out

What to Expect



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

Make a Difference

Service Projects

Groups spend the bulk of their time engaged in service projects with reputable local community organizations. Service projects vary for every group, but each allows meaningful opportunities for students to contribute to the work of the organization while learning from clients, staff and community residents. For example, participants might prepare and serve meals at a soup kitchen, read to children at a day care center or work in an urban garden.

Learn by Doing

Community Experiences

Students learn a great deal about the communities in which they are working. They may participate in facilitated community tours, talk with local residents and leaders or attend neighborhood events. Each group experiences firsthand not just the needs of the community they are serving, but its strengths and assets as well.

Challenge Perspectives

Reflection

Staff members facilitate reflection after each experience 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

This CivicWeekend program is based in the heart of downtown Chicago, on the campus of the University of Illinois at Chicago. This prime location adjacent to Chicago's Loop allows access to service and educational opportunities throughout the city. Overnight, students sleep retreat-style in a common space on campus; students are separated by gender and supervised by residential staff.

Develop Leadership

Team Building

CivicWeekend programs provide a tremendous opportunity for students to connect with diverse, motivated peers from throughout the region. 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 the weekend schedule is quite full, groups also have time for relaxation and fun. Students have free time each day to unwind and socialize with their peers.

Earn Service Hours

Service Hours

All CivicWeekend participants receive a certificate documenting their completion of the program. Center for Talent Development is an accredited institution. As such, CivicWeekend participants may be eligible for up to 15 hours of service-learning credit, depending on school guidelines.

Lessons for a Lifetime

After the Program

CivicWeekend programs are designed to help prepare students for a lifetime of civic engagement. Through online resources, quarterly newsletters, alumni programs and special events, CEP continues to help students identify ways to become more engaged in their own schools and communities after the program concludes.

Eligibility & Admissions

Eligibility

CivicWeekend will bring together a diverse group of bright, motivated middle school students with an interest in service and a desire to develop skills for leadership and civic engagement.

CivicWeekend is open to students who:

- are enrolled in grade 7 or 8 in a participating school district;
- were identified for their school district's gifted and talented program OR have demonstrated a high level of academic excellence OR were nominated by their school district for outstanding student leadership;
- have a sincere interest in learning about communities, social issues and civic engagement;
- are mature, responsible, respectful and highly motivated.

Application Process

An application form is included in this catalog. Students are also asked to submit a brief essay. Completed applications are due to the school principal no later than **October 5, 2011**. Space in the program is limited. Some preference may be given to applications received early in the process.

Notification

Students will be notified via e-mail of the status of their application on or around October 10, 2011. Accepted students receive admissions materials electronically at that time, with all relevant information about the program, including a more detailed schedule, travel information, things to bring, and program rules and policies. Applicants who are not selected to participate may be placed on a waitlist and/or may be offered the opportunity to participate in future programs.

Late Applications

Late applications may be accepted and considered as space in the program permits. Once the program is filled to capacity, qualified applicants may be placed on a waitlist.

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

Tuition & Payment

Tuition

CivicWeekend 2011 Tuition **\$300**

The tuition fee includes all program expenses:

- Overnight lodging and all student meals
- Service project materials and speaker fees
- Transportation to and from all program activities
- Staff instruction and 24-hour supervision

Please note: Participants are responsible for their own travel to and from the program site. School districts will arrange a shuttle service to and from the western suburbs.

Payment Policies

- Families will be invoiced upon acceptance to the program. Tuition is due by October 21, 2011. Payment may be made by credit card or check or money order made payable to *Center for Talent Development*.
- Participants who do not pay the tuition as invoiced may lose their place in the program.
- Tuition payments are nonrefundable.

Financial Support

- Limited financial support may be available through each school district for families with financial need. Contact the school principal for more information.



Safety & Conduct

The safety of CivicWeekend 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

CivicWeekend staff are selected through a highly competitive process that weighs such factors as academic background, service-learning experience and experience working with youth in a residential setting. The lead facilitator for each group is required to have a bachelor's degree and is typically a high school teacher or other education or youth development professional. The assistant facilitator(s) for each group are typically college graduates working in the education or nonprofit fields, graduate students, or exceptional junior- or senior-level undergraduate students. Our trained staff all undergo criminal background checks. They are an exceptional group of individuals brought together by a commitment to educating young people about civic engagement and social responsibility. Alumni consistently report that one of the best aspects of the program is the quality of the group leaders.

Working with established and well-respected host agencies

We ask each host agency to work with us to provide safe volunteer and learning environments. We also ask each agency to provide an orientation for our groups, educating the students about potential risks that may exist in their communities and precautions they can take to minimize this risk to the greatest extent possible.

Providing proper supervision

While students are ultimately responsible for their own conduct, our trained staff teams provide clear guidelines and careful supervision. CivicWeekend programs maintain a small group size of no more than 12 students per group, and offer a high staff to student ratio of at least one staff member for every six students.

Requiring a high standard for student conduct

CivicWeekend programs are highly structured and operate with a strict set of rules regarding appropriate boundaries and staff supervision. After students have been accepted to the program, students and families receive admissions materials with detailed information about program rules and policies. These rules help to ensure the safety of our students and staff, and all students who attend must be committed to respecting them. Students and families are also required to sign our Honor Code as part of the application process, so that all participants are aware of the program's expectations and their personal responsibility to contribute to a positive living and learning environment.

Attending to student health needs

CivicWeekend staff keeps health information about each participant on hand at all times. Local hospitals and clinics provide emergency health care services when needed. Families are responsible for all health costs incurred by their children during the program. Specific health policies and procedures are detailed in the admissions materials students and families receive upon acceptance to the program.

**“An eye-opening,
life-changing,
horizon-expanding
experience.”**

CivicWeekend Fall 2011

Application for Admission

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant's Name _____
FIRST MIDDLE LAST

Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ Gender Female Male Current Grade 7 8
MONTH DATE YEAR

Mailing Address _____
NUMBER AND STREET ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

Home Phone (_____) _____ Student Cell Phone (_____) _____

Student E-mail Address* _____

* Please print clearly. Admissions materials are sent electronically to the student and parent/guardian e-mail addresses provided.

Race/Ethnicity (optional) African American/Black Asian/Pacific Islander Caucasian/White
 Hispanic/Latino Multiracial Native American/Native Alaskan Other

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Parent/Guardian 1 Name Dr Mr Ms _____
FIRST LAST

Address (if different) _____

Day Phone (_____) _____ Evening Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

E-mail Address _____

Parent/Guardian 2 Name Dr Mr Ms _____
FIRST LAST

Address (if different) _____

Day Phone (_____) _____ Evening Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

E-mail Address _____

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

School Name _____

School District _____

How did you *first* hear about the CivicWeekend program?

Email from School Letter or Flyer from School Announcement in Class School Newsletter/Bulletin
 Teacher/School Staff Friend/Relative Other _____

Have you previously participated in a program of the Civic Education Project or the Center for Talent Development?

Yes Which? Civic Education Project Gifted LearningLinks Saturday Enrichment Program Summer Program
 No

Have you participated in Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS)?

Yes No

PROGRAM PREFERENCE

CivicWeekend Fall 2011:

Friday, November 4 – Saturday, November 5, 2011 in Chicago, Illinois

continued on next page

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

App Complete _____ Admit _____ Program _____ Waitlist _____ Deny/WD _____

CivicWeekend Fall 2011 Application for Admission *continued*

STUDENT ESSAY

Please attach a one-page, approximately 250-word essay, completely conceived of and written by the applicant, describing his/her reasons for wanting to attend the CivicWeekend and what s/he hopes to gain from participation in the program.

HONOR CODE

CivicWeekend participants are a mature, responsible and highly motivated group, and we expect all students to meet the highest standards of behavior. As such, students and families are required to sign our Honor Code as part of the application process, so that all participants are aware of the program's expectations and their personal responsibility to contribute to a positive living and learning environment.

In order to create a safe and successful learning community, I commit to:

- Act with personal and academic integrity
- Participate fully in program activities and complete my work to the best of my ability
- Treat all individuals – students, staff and community members – with respect, including those of different races, cultures, religions, national origins, genders, sexual orientations, ages and abilities
- Treat all facilities and property with respect and care
- Observe all program rules and respect staff authority

I understand that my actions will shape our community, and that my membership in the community depends on my honoring this code.

CERTIFICATION

We have read the CivicWeekend brochure and fully understand the nature of the program, admission criteria, tuition and payment policies. We agree to abide by the rules and policies stated in this brochure, in the student handbook and established during the session by staff. As a parent/guardian, I give permission for my child to participate in the CivicWeekend and all related activities and field trips. Activities and field trips may include but are not limited to service projects, tourist attractions, sports, etc. As a student, I give CivicWeekend representatives permission to contact my parent(s), guardian(s) and/or emergency contact(s) to discuss academic, health, administrative or disciplinary matters related to my enrollment in the program. The signatures below also grant Northwestern University the right to reproduce the image, likeness and work of the student and his/her family members in publications and other media, including the web site. We will make no monetary or other claim against Northwestern for such use. We certify that all statements and materials presented in the application process are correct and complete, and agree that the knowing submission of inaccurate, incomplete or misleading statements or materials constitutes grounds for revocation of admission or dismissal from the program.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DATE

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN

DATE

CIVICWEEKEND APPLICATION MATERIALS

- Application for Admission
- Student Essay

APPLICATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 5, 2011

Submit a complete application and student essay to the Principal's Office no later than October 5, 2011.
Late applications may be accepted and considered as space in the program permits.

Important Dates

September 15

Program information and applications available

October 5

Applications due to school principal
Late applications may be considered as space permits

October 10

Students notified & admissions materials sent

October 21

Tuition & forms due to Civic Education Project

November 4 - 5

WSCAE CivicWeekend

Chicago, Illinois

“I felt
challenged and
inspired
at all times.”



More from the Civic Education Project

For middle school students, *Taking Action: Leadership & Service* is a three-week summer course that combines engaging academic work with community service and hands-on field experiences. Courses are offered at Northwestern University and Johns Hopkins University.

Contact Us

For more information about the CivicWeekend or other CEP programs, contact:

Civic Education Project

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

Phone 847/467-2572

Fax 847/467-0880

E-mail cep@northwestern.edu

Web www.ctd.northwestern.edu/cep

Other CTD Programs

Center for Talent Development (CTD) at Northwestern University is an accredited learning center and research facility serving precollegiate students. Since 1982, CTD has assisted more than 500,000 families through Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search and other programs. Offering a variety of learning alternatives for the gifted student, CTD provides school-year and summer academic programs, informational conferences for families and educators, scholarships and graduate courses on gifted education, and conducts and publishes academic research on gifted students.



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.

Here is a selection of our offerings:

Gifted LearningLinks

Online learning for students in K through grade 12. Nine-week enrichment courses are offered each fall, winter, spring and summer, and nine-month Honors/AP® courses are offered with rolling enrollment.

Saturday Enrichment Program

Morning and/or afternoon enrichment and credit-bearing courses for students in PreK through grade 9. Courses are offered during fall, winter and spring sessions, in Evanston, Chicago, Naperville and Palatine, Illinois.

Summer Program

Accelerated enrichment and credit-bearing courses for students completing PreK through grade 12. Courses are offered at Northwestern University in Evanston and in Chicago, Naperville, Palatine and Skokie, Illinois.

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

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WEST SUBURBAN CONSORTIUM FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



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<http://www.civiceducationproject.com/programs/special/wscae>

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