



Dear volunteer!

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Youth Opportunities Unlimited! Volunteers are a very important part of what we do, and the more positive adult role models and mentors for our youth, the better! YOU! is a unique program in Evanston, and is growing! We are the City of Evanston's after school program for adolescents 6th grade through the 12th grade.

Nationally, after school programs are “proven winners,” (Alter, 2005). According to a Louis Harris poll, half the teachers questioned believed that students fail primarily because they are left alone after school. “Studies around the nation have proven time and again that children in after school programs:

- Are two times less likely to use drugs.
- Are one-third less likely to become teen parents.
- Have improved school attendance and do their homework more often and better.
- Show better achievement in math, reading, and other subjects.” (taken from www.hearhouse.org/whyafterschool.htm, Oct. 1, 2006)

The vision of Youth Opportunities Unlimited! is the social growth, learning and healthy development of Evanston's youth. To attain this vision, the mission of Y.O.U.! is to provide a safe, positive, and educational out-of-school environment for adolescents grades 6 through 12. Important components of this mission are providing teens the opportunity to: gain support from caring adult mentors, be peer mentors to other youth, participate in activities that foster healthy relationships with each other as well as with adults and the community, and to provide opportunities to achieve academic success.

So, welcome to a great program, striving to make a difference in Evanston's youth! Naturally the health and safety of our members is of utmost importance to us, and so please take some time to fill out this application, which includes a basic information form, as well as a form for a background check. Also attached you will find a code of ethics for volunteers—just some clarity on what is and isn't appropriate.

If you have any questions, feel free to call us or come visit!

Sincerely,
Kim Proffit
Youth Opportunities Unlimited!
Programs Assistant
444-4969
444-4968
221 10th St.
suites 202-206
(upstairs in old post office)



Additional Volunteer Information

Name: _____ Email: _____

Emergency Info:

In case of an emergency, who should we call?

Name: _____ number: _____

Education

Please circle highest grade completed:

Grade school:	6	7	8	High school:	9	10	11	12	GED
College	1	2	3	Beyond:					

Areas of Interest

Tell us a little about you! Please check any of the following skills you possess or experiences you have had, and explain. (Particularly if you would be interested in sharing with youth, or in which you'd enjoy participating with youth.) Feel free to add to the list!

- Music _____
- Sports _____
- Arts and crafts _____
- Outdoorsy stuff _____
- Character Counts! _____
- A technical skill _____
- Tutor/homework help _____
- Anything else! _____
- Foreign language _____
- Anything else! _____

What would you be interested in doing as a volunteer?

- Facilitating a group
- Computer/administrative work
- Special events chaperone and help
- Just operating as youth center staff
- Teach a workshop/facilitating an activity
- Mentoring

If none of these really fully describes what you expect or want to do as a volunteer, please just write your interest below:

If you are interested in coming regularly, please indicate when, and for how long:

Days: _____ hour(s): _____



Experience

Please give us an idea of your previous work and volunteer experience:

Why do you want to be a volunteer for Youth Opportunities Unlimited!?

References

Please include 3 personal references, other than family members:

Name:	phone number:	relationship:

Do you have any criminal convictions, (other than parking violations and/or juvenile offenses)?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please explain where, when, and disposition:



Volunteer Code of Ethics

The following guidelines are to assist volunteers in understanding what behavior is expected as professional volunteer behavior at Youth Opportunities Unlimited!

- Volunteers must not discriminate against any youth service participant, staff member or other volunteer on the basis of age, sex, ethnic or socio-economic background, creed, national origin, or sexual orientation.
- Volunteers must safeguard and hold confidential any information gained through administrative duties involving supervision of personal or other information identified by the program's staff as being confidential.
- Volunteers must not participate in any events associated with Youth Opportunities Unlimited while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, nor may they participate in the possession, sale, or delivery of a controlled substance.
- Volunteers must not strike, threaten, or verbally abuse any youth, staff member, or other volunteer.
- Theft of property or funds and/or the misapplication of any youth service funds is a breach of the Code of Ethics.
- Falsifying application information is a breach of the Code of Ethics.
- Volunteers must not engage in sexual or intimate activities with any youth.
- Volunteers must not directly give gifts, donations, or financial contributions to a youth involved in services. In turn, volunteers may not accept gift donations, or financial contributions from a youth involved in services.

By signing below, I certify that the information on my application is true and correct. In addition, I have read, understand, and agree to the terms of the code of ethics. I also understand that this application must be approved and a background check done before my service as a volunteer begins.

Applicant signature

Date