

Y TEEN PROGRAMS



“These programs taught me that I could make a difference, that my voice mattered, and that I have the power to influence and inspire those around me.”

- Kadidia Bocoum, Y Teen

THE CHALLENGE

The majority of New York City teens face significant barriers to educational attainment, including a growing mental health crisis and a persistent cycle of poverty. These factors are especially prevalent in communities of color, driving down high school graduation rates and often deterring teens from pursuing college.

THE Y'S SOLUTION

Y Teen Programs respond to the needs of today's youth with five evidence-based programs: [Y Scholars](#), [Rowe Scholars](#), [Teens Take the City](#), [Leaders Club](#) and [Teen Night Out](#). These programs aim to provide pathways to college, strengthen leadership skills, and build social development. Student participants are predominantly Black and Hispanic teens and these programs directly address the educational and social disparities that disproportionately affect these populations.

THE URGENT NEED

The demand for teen programming in low-income NYC neighborhoods exceeds our current capacity to serve. Donations are needed to fund the expansion of Y sites and secure the delivery of these transformational services.

THE Y'S IMPACT IN 2025

Over **2,833** Y teens from NYC public high schools participated in Y Teen Programs.



99%
Graduated
On Time



85%
College Matriculation
Compared to
73% Citywide



120 Hours
of Annual College and
Career Readiness
Programming



\$150K
Awarded to
48
Scholarships Recipients

TRANSFORMING LIVES TOGETHER

- \$10,000: Sponsors an overnight college tour
- \$5,000: Provides college test prep for a cohort of students
- \$1,500: Supports 1-Year of Y Rowe Scholars programming
- \$500: Funds a resume writing workshop



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Y TEEN PROGRAMMING

Y & ROWE SCHOLARS is a comprehensive college and career access program beginning in middle school and extending through high school graduation. Students learn about the college exam and application process, attend college tours, receive guidance around the FAFSA application, and participate in college readiness workshops.

TEEN NIGHT OUT provides a safe space and high-quality programming for youth on Saturday evenings at Y Branches. Teens engage and learn about topics including financial literacy, health and fitness, and career options.

TEENS TAKE THE CITY teaches teens how to use their voice through civic engagement, social activism, and community service. The program focuses specifically on NYC government, teaching policy development, collaboration, and communication skills.

LEADERS CLUB is an intensive and comprehensive teen development program that provides young people with opportunities for leadership training, personal growth, service to others, and social development.

YMCA OF GREATER NEW YORK

We're here for all New Yorkers – to empower youth, improve health, and strengthen community.

For nearly 175 years, the YMCA of Greater New York has been helping all New Yorkers reach their full potential. As New York City's leading nonprofit community service and well-being organization, the Y empowers everyone, no matter who they are or where they're from, by providing access and opportunities for all to learn, grow, and thrive.

We provide a place to play, to be healthy, and to give back. We give parents childcare, young adults job training, seniors a way to connect, and children a safe place to go. By bringing people together from different backgrounds, perspectives, and generations, the Y improves overall health and well-being, ignites youth empowerment, and connects and supports diverse communities across New York City.



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