

Proposal Title: Racine Youth Peace Initiative

Organization Name:

Awesome Young Authors Awards and Community

Proposal Submitted By:

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Awesome Young Authors Awards and Community

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Proposal Submitted To:

City of Racine Purchasing

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Date of Submission:

March 21, 2025

Amount Requested:

\$30,000

Program Duration:

May 2025 - September 30, 2025

Program Location:

Racine, WI

Brief Description of Program:

The Racine Youth Peace Initiative aims to reduce violence, promote peace, and empower at-risk youth in Racine, WI, by providing them with the skills and knowledge needed to make positive changes in their lives and communities. The program will include interactive workshops, community service, and leadership development opportunities.

Objective:

The initiative seeks to provide at-risk youth with the tools to prevent violence, build leadership skills, and foster positive relationships within their communities, working in partnership with local organizations and law enforcement.

Awesome Young Authors Awards and Community

Racine Youth Peace Initiative Proposal

Program Overview:

The Racine Youth Peace Initiative aims to create a safe and supportive environment for youth at risk of engaging in criminal or violent behavior. The initiative will equip youth with the skills and knowledge needed to prevent violence, promote positive relationships, and foster a culture of peace within the community. Through a blend of interactive workshops, team-building activities, community service, and strategic partnerships with local organizations, the program will address the root causes of violence and help youth become proactive advocates for peace. Collaborating with organizations such as Cop n Kids Reading Center, Gateway Technical College, Racine Unified School District, and Racine Law Enforcement, the program will serve as a catalyst for positive change, building a safer and more peaceful community for all.

Scope of Work and Approach:

This 10-week program will feature the following core elements:

1. Interactive Workshops and Skill-Building Activities:

Youth will participate in engaging workshops designed to foster skills in conflict resolution, active listening, emotional intelligence, and empathy. These workshops will be followed by role-playing, group discussions, and hands-on activities, providing youth with opportunities to apply these critical skills in real-life scenarios.

2. Community Service and Engagement:

Participants will engage in community service projects, such as organizing local cleanups and launching awareness campaigns. These activities will help youth apply their learning while making a positive impact on their community.

3. Collaborative Partnerships:

Our partnership with local organizations, including Gateway Technical College and Cop n Kids Reading Center, will provide invaluable resources for hands-on learning and mentorship. We will also work closely with law enforcement and the school district to foster mutual respect and build bridges between youth, community organizations, and law enforcement.

Objectives:

- Violence Prevention and Awareness: Teach youth about the impact of violence, while equipping them with the skills to resolve conflicts peacefully.
- Skill Development: Empower youth with essential life skills, including empathy, emotional regulation, and effective communication.
- Community Building: Provide opportunities for youth to engage in service projects that foster collaboration and community responsibility.

- Youth Leadership: Provide youth with leadership opportunities to advocate for peace, promote positive change, and serve as role models for their peers.

Program Structure:

1. Orientation (Day 1):

- Introduction to the program, expectations, and team-building exercises.
- Icebreaker activities like Human Bingo and Two Truths and a Lie to build rapport and foster a sense of community among participants.

2. Workshops (Days 2-5):

- Topics include conflict resolution, active listening, understanding the root causes of violence, and building empathy.
- These sessions will be interactive, encouraging youth to engage and think critically about violence and peace.

3. Skill-Building Activities (Days 6-10):

- Role-playing and group activities will help participants practice resolving conflicts, listening actively, and leading by example.
- Participants will engage in creative projects, such as creating community awareness campaigns and peace-promoting art, to bring their skills to life.

4. Community Engagement (Days 11-15):

- Youth will participate in service projects like organizing local cleanups, supporting community-based events, and working with local businesses through Gateway Technical College's Fab Lab.

5. Law Enforcement Interaction (Day 16):

- Educational sessions with Racine Law Enforcement officers to discuss building trust, effective communication, and overcoming misunderstandings between youth and law enforcement.

6. Racine Youth Peace Day (Day 17):

- A celebration of the program's success, featuring youth-led peace campaigns, performances, and community engagement activities.
- The final event will emphasize the youth's commitment to fostering peace, allowing them to demonstrate their leadership and advocacy for a peaceful future.

Experience and Qualifications:

With over 15 years of experience in the unified school system, mental health services, and adolescent counseling, I bring an extensive background in working with at-risk youth. I am also certified in adolescent mental health and have a strong track record in youth development. My experience includes facilitating youth groups focused on conflict resolution, leadership, and violence prevention.

In addition, my team and I led the CEO's of Tomorrow program, which was awarded by the City of Racine and specifically targeted at-risk youth. In this program, I provided mentorship and taught basic business skills, leadership, and financial literacy. The program was successful in teaching youth essential life skills and reducing crime rates among participants, as well as improving their quality of life by fostering confidence, skill development, and career exploration. This experience is directly aligned with the objectives of the Racine Youth Peace Initiative, as it demonstrates my ability to engage at-risk youth, create positive outcomes and build stronger, safer communities.

Our team includes highly qualified staff with expertise in youth development, mental health, and education. We also work in close collaboration with local agencies in Racine, such as Cop n Kids Reading Center, Gateway Technical College, and Racine Unified School District, ensuring that our program is well-resourced and supported by community partners.

Program Partners:

- Cop n Kids Reading Center: Partnering to promote literacy and mentorship programs, helping youth build a strong foundation in education and personal development.
- Gateway Technical College: Providing career exploration opportunities and hands-on learning experiences through their Fab Lab.
- Racine Law Enforcement: Offering educational sessions and facilitating relationship-building activities between youth and law enforcement.
- Racine Unified School District: Partnering for outreach, recruitment, and alignment with district goals for youth development and engagement.

Program Evaluation and Success Metrics:

We will measure the success of the program using the following criteria:

- Increased knowledge and skills in conflict resolution, empathy, and leadership.
- Positive changes in social behavior, including decreased incidents of violence and crime.
- Empowered youth who take on leadership roles and advocate for peace in their communities.
- Stronger relationships between youth, law enforcement, and local organizations.

Program Timeline:

- Planning and Recruitment: March - May 2025 (3-6 months prior to program start).
- Program Implementation: June 21 - October 4, 2025 (10-week duration).
- Evaluation and Reflection: October - November 2025 (1-2 months after program completion).

Conclusion:

The Racine Youth Peace Initiative is an opportunity to make a lasting impact on the youth of Racine, equipping them with the tools and knowledge to prevent violence and promote peace. Through collaboration with local organizations, law enforcement, and the school district, the program offers a holistic approach to addressing violence and building stronger, safer communities.

With our team's extensive experience in working with at-risk youth and successfully running youth programs like the CEO's of Tomorrow, I am confident that this initiative will empower youth to become leaders for change, advocate for peace, and reduce violence in Racine. By providing them with the necessary skills and support, we are creating a better, more peaceful future for our community.