



Young Professionals Network

Membership Information

Young Professionals Network is funded under the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998. The purpose of the Act is to provide activities that increase employment, retention, earning, and skills in the American workforce. We provide members with assistance in achieving academic and employment success through skill-building activities, effective connections with employers, on-going mentoring and support. Our members develop leadership skills, learn how to make good decisions, grow as citizens and provide important services to the community.

Membership

Membership is open to youth aged 16 to 21 who meet federal requirements and Young Professionals Network eligibility standards. Each application is reviewed by our staff to determine suitability for membership. In general, we look for young people who want to improve their lives and are willing to commit themselves to higher achievement.

Activities

Young Professionals Network members will be involved in the following activities:

- opportunities for work experiences, internships and job shadowing, including summer employment opportunities and voluntary service to the community
- career decision-making activities...assessment of skills, interests, abilities and aptitudes...self-awareness exercises...individual and group research activities...connections with local employer
- mentoring from a qualified adult
- career leadership sessions which develop the “soft skills” employers demand
- help in successfully completing high school or GED studies
- group and individual instruction (including computer-based training) to develop academic and occupational skills
- comprehensive guidance and support from our expert staff
- follow-up services for up to a year after membership ends

Each member will follow an individual **Young Professionals Network** plan during their time with us to help ensure their success in achieving educational and employment goals. Additional benefits and requirements may apply to some members based on their specific goals and needs.

Work Experience

Many of our members will be involved in a paid work experience activity, including 10 weeks of summer employment. An orientation packet describing attendance requirements, payroll procedures and schedule, evaluations, on the job safety, termination policies and contact information will be provided.

Based on assessment information, members will participate in academic skills development using the computer-based *Skills Bank* program. Members will be paid for their time on task and participation is required as scheduled.

Job Shadowing

Members will be required to participate in job shadowing activities, selecting a minimum of three shadow sites for the initial quarter of the programs. It is the responsibility of each member to develop the sites for shadowing, with guidance from staff. Members will be paid for their time on task and participation is required as scheduled.

Career Leadership Sessions

A series of Career Leadership Sessions will be scheduled to help members gain competence in solving problems, making decisions, reasoning, creative thinking, interpersonal skills, job seeking and job keeping, study skills and a host of other areas which are important for success in the workplace. These sessions will be held for 2 hours approximately every two weeks. Members will be paid for their time on task and participation is required as scheduled.

Individual Activities

Young Professionals Network members will be involved in independent and individual activities in addition to participation in group session or training activities. Regular appointments with our staff will be scheduled for each member, as will meetings with a qualified adult mentor. Participation is required as scheduled.

Evaluations and Incentives Program

In addition to pay for hours of participation, members may become eligible for incentives based on exemplary performance and superior evaluations, your Young Professionals Network staff contact will have further information on the incentives program and how you participate.

Questions or Further Information

Our staff will be available to answer questions you may have at any time during your membership in Young Professionals Network. There may be additional benefits and requirements applicable from time to time. Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

Welcome to Young Professionals Network and Best Wishes for a Bright Future!