



YES-UU: YOUTH EXPLORING SPIRITUALITY

Junior High Youth Programs

Basics for Parents

We are excited to share how our Unitarian Universalist (UU) community can make a positive impact on our youth. At UU, we believe in nurturing personal growth, fostering social engagement, and building a strong sense of identity for our young individuals. We do this by empowering youth to lead initiatives and projects, encouraging discussions that align with their interests, and providing mentorship programs that guide them in their personal, spiritual, and academic journeys. Our aim is to equip them with essential life skills, expose them to diverse perspectives through interfaith and inter-cultural dialogues, and involve them in meaningful community service and social justice projects. We also organize outdoor adventures for resilience and teamwork and offer platforms for artistic expression. Our community strives to create a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment where every youth feels heard, valued, and supported. Together, we build a future of confident, compassionate, and engaged leaders.

Additional Options for Engagement

Through the congregation, youth have the opportunity to pursue leadership, volunteering, and internship programs. We work with youth to explore their specific interests, where they can share their gifts, develop a greater sense of self, and build their capacity as young leaders. Such opportunities may include:

- Leading children's programs
- Leading elements of worship services, including music
- Video recording/editing
- Social and/or environmental justice

Youth may start at any time through the year and the schedule will be flexible and can be shaped around their school and other commitments. We can give youth confirmation of volunteer hours if needed for school and a reference for youth who successfully complete a program. We can't wait to welcome you and share the beauty and warmth of Unitarian Universalism with your family!

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