YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

2021
2022

PRETEND CITY
YLC
INFORMATION

29 HUBBLE
IRVINE, CA
92618

Lead.
Inspire.
Change.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello!

Thank you for your interest in the Pretend City Youth Leadership Council! We are a group of empowered middle and high schoolers who are dedicated to building better brains in our community. We are looking for passionate and inspired individuals to help us further our mission of “building better brains,” students who are willing to go the extra mile to serve their community.

My name is John, and I am a student at Beckman High School. I first joined the Pretend City YLC in the summer before my freshman year, and have since been exposed to countless opportunities in leadership, public speaking, and networking. This council welcomed me with open arms and has continually taught me more and more important leadership skills and life skills. As the President of the YLC, I encourage you to become a member of our council!

By becoming a member of the council, you get to build your leadership skills, forge lasting friendships, and use your unique voice to make lasting and impactful change in our community; whether that be by organizing a drive at school, contacting local businesses for donations, writing grants, or creating educational programming.

Every year, the YLC comes together to fully organize and implement community outreach events in areas we are passionate about. This year, the YLC worked to bring STEAM education and European cultural awareness to the programming at Pretend City. Our STEAM City celebrated science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics through hands-on activities and challenges. Our European Culture Celebration highlighted the traditions of France, Austria, Spain, Ireland, Rome, and Greece through crafts, games, activities, and performances (including a Viennese waltz)!

Past events include:

- “Lunar New Year Celebration” brought Vietnamese, Korean, and Chinese Lunar New Year customs to Pretend City kids and families
- “Brain Boxes” brought developmental milestone questionnaire kits to homeless families in Orange County to promote a lifetime of learning from a young age
- “S.T.E.A.M. City” exposed Pretend City kids to the many jobs and fields related to S.T.E.A.M. (science, technology, engineering, art, mathematics) that are becoming more and more important in today's society
- Our European Culture Event brought traditional European customs to Pretend City kids and families
- Interactive book on different cultures and traditions
- Online scavenger events

Whether you are 17 or 12, a seasoned leader or a passionate person looking for your voice, a regular volunteer or just starting your volunteer career, we would love to have you on our council. Remember that YLC is a learning experience, and your brain will grow as you build the brains of others. Together, we will be challenged, thrust into a group filled with people of different interests, passions, and perspectives. We will put our heads and hearts together to help a cause we all are passionate about. And after all of our hard work and planning, we only need to see one smile, one better brain, one life changed, to change the world.

On behalf of the entire Youth Leadership Council, we cannot wait to read your submissions, and we look forward to what the future may hold.

Best,
John Park

John Park
Pretend City’s YLC
Outgoing President
2019-2021
Beckman High School
Senior,
Spring 2021

INTRO TO THE YLC

Purpose Statement: *The members of the Youth Leadership Council are ambassadors for Pretend City. The council consists of young people committed to furthering the mission of Pretend City Children's Museum while positively impacting their communities through leadership, philanthropy, education, and awareness.*

"FROM PRETEND CITY TO THE REAL WORLD"

Consistent with the educational philosophy of Pretend City Children's Museum, the YLC provides an immersive experience for a multi-aged group of inspired youth to cultivate leadership skills through their direct participation on a youth board of directors.

In the YLC, you get the chance to...

- Foster leadership skills through hands-on learning experiences
- Enhance skills appropriate for today's workplace such as critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, leading by influence, entrepreneurialism, effective communication, and responsibility
- Mentor with community business leaders and museum staff
- Gain an understanding of the importance of philanthropy & how non-profits operate
- Organize and lead community events
- Attend a leadership retreat
- Collaborate with peers from other schools in an inclusive environment
- Gain a competitive edge over your peers for the college admissions process

WHAT IS PRETEND CITY?

MISSION STATEMENT

Pretend City is a non-profit children's museum which builds better brains through fun, whole body learning experiences and empowers children and their grown-ups to meaningfully connect with and expand their world.

Since Pretend City opened in August 2009, it has become a valued resource for families in Southern California. Designed as a small, interconnected city with a grocery store, farm, doctor's office, art studio, amphitheater, beach, and marina, it is a place to explore, learn, play, and be creative in a familiar environment. We have welcomed over 1.4 million visitors! We also host special events such as therapeutic play nights for children with Autism and Family Wellness Fairs, which provide free developmental, health, and dental screenings. Through our Pretend City Children's Museum Scholarship Program, children in underserved schools receive free admission to the museum and educational programming through special field trips.

WE BELIEVE…

- Young children learn best through their play
- Families are our children's first and most important teachers
- In supporting healthy childhood development
- In nurturing a passion for learning through play
- Diversity enriches children's lives
- In connecting families to each other and the community
- **PLAY CHANGES THE WORLD!**

Pretend City®
CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

STRUCTURE AND FORMAT

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the Youth Leadership Council:

- Are students of excellent character
- Stand apart from the crowd in their actions and attitude
- Go beyond the minimum effort and grade requirements in school
- Exhibit positive leadership influence amongst peers
- Are creative and innovative thinkers
- And are FUN!

REQUIREMENTS

- Be going into grades 7-12 in the Fall of 2021
- Have at least a 3.0 GPA

YLC MEETINGS

YLC meetings are held twice a month on **Mondays from 4:30-6:30** at Pretend City Children's

Museum. Here are the meeting dates for the upcoming year (Dates are subject to change):

September 6	December 20	April 4
September 20	January 10	April 18
October 4	January 24	May 2
October 18	February 7	May 16
November 1	February 21	June 6
November 15	March 7	June 20
December 6	March 21	

Additionally, please plan to be available in **August** for our annual YLC retreat. This is a local, daytime event.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

APRIL 4TH 11:59PM - YLC APPLICATION DEADLINE

By APRIL 19TH - *SELECT APPLICANTS NOTIFIED BACK FOR GROUP INTERVIEWS*

MAY 2-8 - APPLICANT INTERVIEWS

By JUNE 1 - NEW MEMBERS NOTIFIED

AUGUST TBD - YLC RETREAT (1ST YLC MEETING WITH ALL MEMBERS)

If you would like to come and visit the museum prior to submitting an application, please schedule a tour with the YLC Coordinator:

AUTUMN.HAGSTROM@PRETENDCITY.ORG

YLC@PRETENDCITY.ORG
949.428.3900 Ext. 217

Both weekday and weekend appointments are available.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Document 1: Letter of Recommendation
Please obtain one letter of recommendation. It can be from a teacher, coach, advisor, supervisor, etc. (that are not related to you).

Document 2: Resume
Please send current resume with your current GPA (include work and volunteer experience).

For any additional questions, please email ylc@pretendcity.org.

APPLY TODAY!

@PretendCity