

Leadership Connection Curriculum Overview



Overall Objective: While participating in experiential education activities, youth will develop their personal leadership identities. Exploring the traits of leaders who have affected social change, youth will identify the qualities, habits, and values of a leader. Youth will engage in activities that require them to embrace their leadership skills and share them with the group in order to complete assigned tasks. Youth will explore the anatomy of a leader, identifying where their personal strengths lie. Youth will learn about four different ways to lead: service, education, advocacy, and organizing.

Guiding Questions:

- What is justice?
- What is leadership?
- What skills will my group need in order to be successful?
- What skills do I possess that can help my group meet goals?
- How do personal values affect leadership?
- When considering ways to lead, what are service, education, advocacy, and organizing?
- How can I be a leader for social justice in my community?

Key Concepts:

- **BRIDGES youth** are active citizens who take responsibility for improving their community by striving to advance justice.
- **Leaders** empower others by leading through example and listening to the concerns and needs of others, while considering what is positive and healthy for the group in its entirety.
- **Leaders** attempt to identify the root causes of problems in order to affect positive social change.
- **Leadership** consists of employing personal strengths, building upon personal values, and pursuing visions that respect the needs of all individuals.
- **Leaders for justice** utilize different strategies, including but not limited to service, education, advocacy, and community organizing.

CORE STANDARDS Alignment:

The BRIDGES Connect Curriculum has been aligned with the Common Core College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards (CCRAS). All learning activities within the Connect Curriculum support and assume shared responsibility for attaining the standards. While it is necessary for youth and educational leaders to devote significant time and effort in various educational settings to attain these standards, participation in the BRIDGES Connect Curriculum will enhance students' knowledge and skills necessary for success in this endeavor. In addition, since the Connect Curriculum is inextricably linked to social justice and action issues embedded within race, ecology, economics and education, the learning activities intentionally promote the following College and Career Dimensions and youth's ability to:

- *Comprehend and Critique Significant Human/Social Issues
- *Build Strong Content Knowledge
- *Gain Self-Awareness
- *Demonstrate Independence as well as Collaboration
- *Respond to Particular Audience, Task, Purpose & Discipline
- *Value Evidence as Basis for Analysis, Opinion, Implications, Action
- *Use Technology and other Digital Media Strategically and Capably

In addition, participation in the Bridges Connect Curriculum offers a unique and critical opportunity for urban youth to develop, make a commitment to and demonstrate community leadership through academic pursuit, advocacy, and activism.