



In Youth We Trust is a youth philanthropy program of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois. This program teaches grantmaking and volunteerism to today's youth, preparing them to be the positive change of tomorrow.

What is the In Youth We Trust program?

In Youth We Trust (IYWT) is a youth philanthropy program of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois. Established with a grant from the Ford Foundation in 1994 and endowed by a local donor, the program teaches grantmaking and volunteerism to today's youth, preparing them to be the positive change of tomorrow. Since the program began, IYWT Council members have granted over \$350,000 to local youth organizations for their community projects.

What is the IYWT Council?

The IYWT Council is made up of 30-40 high school students from across the Winnebago, Boone, Ogle and Stephenson County area. Our goal is to have at least one student representative from each area high school serve on the IYWT Council. Council members have the opportunity to engage in and improve their community while learning philanthropy, volunteerism and leadership skills. We look for Council members that are dedicated, responsible, kind, respectful, open to others, and ready to use their many talents to better the world around them.

What does the IYWT Council do?

The IYWT Council helps to set grant policy, evaluates grant applications, interviews applicants, and makes funding recommendations to the Community Foundation's Board of Trustees. All the grant applications submitted are for youth-inspired projects that benefit the community. The IYWT Council also participates in occasional volunteer and social events.

What is the time commitment for IYWT Council members?

Between September and May the IYWT Council participates in one meeting or event per month. Standard meetings are usually held on a Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. and last for approximately two hours. Adult advisors are always present for guidance, but the students are wholly in charge of planning and running meetings. The day, time and length of additional events and activities vary, but there is always plenty of advanced notice. Consistent attendance is key to being a successful member of the IYWT Council.

How do I become an IYWT Council member?

Every Councilor must fill out an application (found at cfnil.org/iywt), submit a letter of recommendation, and interview with a group of current members prior to the October meeting. Prospective members can meet the current Council and learn more at the Kickoff Meeting on Saturday, September 17.

Applications for the 2016-17 school year are due by October 1st.

If you're interested in applying, would like more information, or have any questions, visit cfnil.org/iywt, or contact:

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