



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 the 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, community engagement, and leadership skills through an experiential process. Since the program began, IYWT Council members have granted over \$500,000 to local youth organizations for their community projects.

What is the IYWT Council?

The IYWT Council is made up of 20-25 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. The meetings will be virtual for the foreseeable future. We hope this will make meetings more accessible for students who live further away. We look for a diverse group of students who are engaged in their community, critical thinkers, open to others, and dedicated to improving the world around them.

What does the IYWT Council do?

Each year the Council distributes up to \$25,000 through a grant program to community projects that are both driven by and benefit local youth. In conjunction with our regular grant cycle for youth-led projects this year, IYWT will offer a grant cycle specifically for non-profits that serve youth directly, and can be adult written. Councilors advise on grant policy, evaluate grant applications, interview applicants, and make funding recommendations to the Community Foundation's Board of Trustees. 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 holds one meeting or event per month, virtually. Standard meetings are usually held on a Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. and last for approximately three 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 potential Councilor must fill out an application (found at cfnil.org/iywt) by October 1st, and submit a letter of recommendation by October 8th. Prospective members can meet the current Council and learn more at the Kickoff Meeting on Saturday, September 19th at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. The student will need to email cstahly@cfnil.org if they would like to attend the meeting on September 19th to receive the Zoom invitation.

Applications for the 2020-21 school year are due by October 1st, and recommendation will be due by October 8th.

If you want to apply, would like more information, or have any questions, visit cfnil.org/iywt, or contact:

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