



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.

IYWT COUNCIL MEETING CALENDAR 2023-2024

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS



August 19th 11:00-1:00 IYWT Summer Info Bash

Anyone interested in learning more about IYWT can stop by the CFNIL backyard between 11-1 for snacks, games, and a chance to hang with current IYWT members. Ask questions, learn about our grants, share ideas, and meet other local youth who are looking for ways to help their community!

FALL

September

16th-Youth Application Prep Meeting
Council Headshots
Lunch Provided
9-12:00-Longer Meeting

October

Youth App Opens 10/16
21st- Youth Application Promotion Meeting
9-11:30

November

Youth App Closes 11/16
18th-Youth Grant Review Meeting
9-11:30

December

16th-Interviews and Grant Meeting/Celebrations
Lunch Provided
9-12:00-Longer Meeting
**12/5- CFNIL Scholarship Fair
*Volunteer Opportunity***

Spring

January

20th-Adult Grant Marketing/Application Prep Meeting
9-11:30

February

Adult App Opens 2/1
17th-Special Event Meeting
9-11:30

March

Adult App Closes 3/1
16th-Adult Grant Meeting
9-11:30

April

20th-Grant Reception Planning Meeting
Lunch Provided
9-12:00-Longer Meeting

May

9th-Thursdays
Grant Reception-Time/Location TBD





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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 \$600,000 to local youth-led organizations for their community projects or to organizations that serve youth.

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. 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 \$40,000 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. Council members 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. Standard meetings are usually held on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m. and last for approximately 2.5-3 hours at the CFNIL offices in Rockford, IL. Adult advisors are always present for guidance, but the students are wholly in charge of planning and running meetings. The day, time, location 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 council member must submit an online application and recommendation letter (found at cfnil.org/iywt) by September 6th at 5pm. **Prospective members can meet current IYWT members and learn more on Saturday, August 19th at from 11:00-1:00 for a casual hangout in the backyard.** New members will be notified no later than September 8th and should be ready to attend the first meeting on September 16th.

Applications and reference letters for the 2023-24 school year are due by September 6th at 5PM.

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

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