



*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 \$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](http://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](http://cfnil.org/iywt), or contact:

**Heather Rapp**

Staff Liaison to In Youth We Trust

Community Foundation of Northern Illinois

[iywt@cfnil.org](mailto:iywt@cfnil.org)



---

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

946 N. Second Street · Rockford, IL 61107 · 815-962-2110 · [www.cfnil.org](http://www.cfnil.org)