

**Youth/Police Dialogues repairs trust between youth and police officers who serve and protect them, one neighborhood at a time.**



### How can I participate in YPD?

Contact Mica Warton, Youth/Police Dialogues Manager, at 617-585-5421, or [mwarton@ywboston.org](mailto:mwarton@ywboston.org)

**Since YPD started in Boston in 2005:**

**Over 150 police officers** have participated.

**Nearly 1,000 youth** have participated.

**Several police departments** have participated, including Boston PD, MBTA Transit Police, Chelsea PD, and Worcester PD.

Officers from a **variety of units** have participated, including Neighborhood Watch Unit, Youth Violence Strike Force Unit, and Community Service Unit.

**The program has been recognized for its effectiveness** by representatives of both the ACLU and the Boston Police Department.



# YW Boston's Youth/Police Dialogues

eliminating racism  
empowering women

**yw**  
boston  
**150** years

[www.ywboston.org/ypd](http://www.ywboston.org/ypd)



## What is YPD?

### Rebuilding trust, for everyone's safety.

YPD brings together youth (ages 12-20) and police officers in series of facilitated conversations to increase trust and understanding between them.

In a series of 4-6 interactive sessions, you will:

- Meet and form personal relationships with young people in the community you serve
- Discuss important topics with the youth, such as stereotyping and unconscious bias, community safety concerns, the “stop snitching” culture and the importance of reporting a crime
- Take part in interactive and community-building activities

At the end of the series, all participants commit to be the change they wish to see in their community.

## What will I get out of YPD?

### Stronger ties to the community you serve.

Through YPD, you will form personal relationships with the young people in the community you serve. You will gain a stronger understanding of the youth perspective in common youth-police interactions, which can inform your policing and help you be more effective in promoting community safety.

After YPD:

- 100% of officers who participated say they would recommend the program to other officers
- 75% of police participants say they are more likely to talk with youth in the neighborhoods they serve other than when they are in trouble
- 71% of officers say they have approached policing differently since participating

## What is required of me?

### A few sessions can change a life.

Given that officers have varying schedules and many demands on their time, YPD is set up to be efficient.

The program is a series of 4-6 dialogue sessions, each one 2.5 hours in length. You are asked to make every effort to attend all sessions, so that you can form real relationships with the young people participating.

Outside of your time, YPD asks that you bring your full self into the experience. It will challenge you to reflect and communicate openly and honestly about your experiences and values, so that youth can get to know you as a person, and not just an officer.

Participation in YPD is free for both youth and police officers, thanks to YW Boston's generous donors.



*“The youth come to see me as a real person, not just a badge and a uniform. This is what the YPD program does, it helps youth and officers to shed layers of misunderstanding and creates a neutral environment where we can just talk, talk for real, about the issues the youth are facing, and about the work we as officers are trying to do in the community. We walk away having a better understanding of each other. **YPD helps us to eliminate the ‘us v. them’ mentality** and realize we are in this together. We all want a peaceful, safe community.”*

**Officer Israul Marrero**

Community Service Office, Area B-2 (Roxbury), Boston Police Department