

Program Overview



Youth Leadership Initiative

Educate

Empower

www.ywboston.org/init

Developing high school students who care into social justice leaders who act.

Issues of race, gender, and class are increasingly in the national spotlight. Teens have reactions to these issues and will discuss them among peers, but these conversations aren't always productive and usually do not result in social change. InIt, YW Boston's award-winning Youth Leadership Initiative, provides students with social justice education and training outside of the classroom, and supports their growth into socially responsible youth leaders.

The program runs from July to May and includes a summer retreat and program days one Saturday per month. During the ten month program, students will:

- Learn about key social justice concepts
- Develop leadership, social and emotional, and workplace skills
- Design and execute community action projects

Schools are encouraged to sponsor a delegation of four to five students. The cost of sponsorship varies by type of school and is significantly subsidized. The expected student/family contribution is minimal and based on ability to pay.

To discuss participation in InIt, contact Kaitlin Pang, Recruitment Coordinator, at [617-585-5489](tel:617-585-5489) or kpang@ywboston.org.

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InIt has made me look at the world differently. It's been one of my greatest experiences from high school and is something I wish everyone had the opportunity to do.

InIt delegate

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eliminating racism
empowering women

yw
boston

150 years

A comprehensive learning experience

The InIt program consists of a five-night overnight retreat in July, program days one Saturday per month, and ongoing community action projects during the school year.

Over the ten-month program, students learn about topics important to social justice leadership through workshops on:

- Economic justice
- Education policy
- Food justice
- Health equity
- Immigration
- Criminal legal system

Students combine their newly acquired knowledge and leadership skills to design, implement, and engage peers in a community action project that improves equity in their school or community. Action projects have taken the form of starting clubs, holding workshops and assemblies for peers, and advocating for school policy change.

Participating Schools

Academy of the Pacific Rim
Boston Collegiate Charter School
Boston Latin Academy
Boston Latin School
Boston Preparatory Charter School
Cambridge Rindge and Latin School
Cambridge School of Weston
Concord Academy
Fenway High School
John. D. O'Bryant School
KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate
Milton Academy
Milton High School
New Mission High School
Newton South High School
St. John's Preparatory School
The Fessenden School

Benefits in school and beyond

Students graduate from InIt with new perspectives, relationships, and skills that benefit them in all areas of their lives. Students gain:

- In-depth understanding of social justice and how to affect positive change in their schools and communities
- Meaningful connections with peers from different racial, religious, socio-economic and geographic backgrounds
- Leadership and workplace skills like public speaking, time management, workshop facilitation, and communication skills
- Connection to a large network of InIt alumni who are local leaders
- Social and emotional learning skills like active listening, critical thinking, empathy, and initiative

YW Boston evaluates change in students' knowledge, attitude and behavior to ensure efficacy of the InIt program.

After graduating from InIt, students report:



About YW Boston

YW Boston is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. As the first YWCA in the nation, we have been at the forefront of advancing equity for 150 years. We have remained a leader through generations by turning the support of those that envision a better Boston for all into creative, effective programs that make positive change.

We have a deep understanding of the problems of racial and gender inequity, and we know what works – engaging people and organizations at all levels. Our programs that educate + empower reach middle school girls, police officers, corporate executives, high school youth leaders, policymakers, and Boston area residents of all walks of life. Everyone we connect with learns what they can do to promote equity in their personal life, social circle, workplace, school, or neighborhood.

To learn more about our programs and how you can get involved, visit www.ywboston.org.