

# F.Y.R.E. Initiative

Fierce Youth Reigniting Excellence

eliminating racism  
empowering women

**yw**  
boston



**PROGRAM LAUNCH: FALL 2019**

YW Boston facilitators will conduct a 12-15 week leadership development series for girls grades 6th through 9th. The series brings together social justice education, positive identity development, and civic engagement, culminating in small group civics projects. This model will take place in schools or Out of School Time programs, and it is developed to operate in a “girls group” structure rather than a traditional classroom structure. Core to the program is an effort to provide experiential learning opportunities and dialogue to build understanding and increase social emotional learning.

Program participants will present a project at an end-of-semester conference and have the opportunity to engage with other youth leaders from across Greater Boston. Participants will be supported by and influence YW Boston’s Advocacy Committee through a feedback loop.

## Program Objectives

- Participants will utilize critical thinking to assess racial and gender inequities in the city of Boston
- Participants will learn about historical and current movements for racial and gender equity
- Participants will increase their capacity to engage in advocacy and policy change and lead others to act on issues important to them
- Participants will build sense of self, empowerment, and resilience through controlling their lives and making an impact in their community
- Participants will identify community needs and assets and build problem solving skills in identifying solutions
- Participants will understand how identities intersect and are impacted by systems of power
- Participants will utilize reflection, empathy, and conflict resolution to work across differences to resolve broader institutional issues

## Curriculum Outline

### Section 1: Learn

- Week 1: Introduction & Norms
- Week 2: Identity: Race & Gender Intersectionality
- Week 3: Personal Power: Self Esteem & Self Advocacy
- Weeks 4-5: Systems: Unpacking Racism & Sexism
- Week 6: Healthy Relationships
- Week 7: Collective Power

### Section 2: Plan

- Week 8: Community Assessment
- Week 9: Selecting an Issue
- Week 10: Researching Issue  
Conduct Power Analysis

### Section 3: Act

- Week 11: Identifying Tactics  
Project Development
- Weeks 12-13: Act
- Week 14: Conference preparation
- Week 15: Reflection

To learn more about participation, contact TiElla Grimes at [tgrimes@ywboston.org](mailto:tgrimes@ywboston.org) or visit [ywboston.org/fyre](http://ywboston.org/fyre) for more information.

### YW Boston Gender Inclusion Statement:

We use girl as a term to include anyone, including transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people, whose key gender identity, experience and internal perception on the spectrum of gender, is woman or girl.