INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

UYLA works alongside urban youth like you. Join us as we partner to cultivate your leadership strengths, equipping and empowering you to take on new opportunities:

**Urban Roots** is a summer leadership institute for emerging high school-age leaders who want to explore their identity and purpose as they become servant-leaders in their communities. Focusing on faith, community, and leadership, students encounter cultural norms such as high expectations, critical thinking, and healthy community. As students’ thinking is challenged, we offer a safe space and encouragement toward action when they ask, “Now what?”

**Leadership Retreat** closes each summer with a weekend of holistic enrichment. While in a camp setting, urban youth, young adult mentors, and community leaders have rare opportunities to experience times of community building, reflection, and empowerment before heading into a new school year.

**Youth Outreach Interns** are a cadre of young adults invited by UYLA to serve as youth workers and community developers in urban communities, and participate in the Urban Roots “learning lab” each summer. Youth Outreach interns also plan the leadership retreat, mentor younger groups of urban youth, and meet for ongoing leadership training as ways to foster their own leadership development.

School and Community Partnerships between UYLA and local churches, organizations, and schools happen year-round. Through leadership development classes, multicultural youth are encouraged to engage in their communities, pursue higher education, and serve in the global urban context, perpetuating community development.

You are **uniquely equipped** to lead, because you:

**Navigate Life’s Complexities**

**Build Relationships Across Cultural Boundaries**

**Know the Value of Community**

**Demonstrate Determination and Resiliency**

Through meaningful conversations with your community leaders, UYLA helps you **live** out your purpose **right now**.

“Urban Roots totally challenged my mindset about how I interpret my life.”
— Jerrell, age 16

“Urban Roots completely changed the way I think about myself and what I have to offer.”
— Clayton, age 16

UYLA uses dialogical and experiential learning, narratives, and mentoring relationships to empower emerging urban youth leaders to live transformed lives as influential and effective servant leaders in the global urban village.

UYLA partners with youth development organizations and local leaders to create a community culture of servant leadership. In these settings, urban youth challenge each other and discuss the skills, values, and theology necessary to lead in the urban community.

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VISION FOR A PURPOSE
Explore your purpose and envision yourself as a transformational community leader.

EQUIPPED FOR LEADERSHIP
Build your leadership capacity through dialogue, experience, and reflection with mentor leaders.

EMPOWERED FOR ACTION
Put knowledge into practice creating powerful solutions for your home, school, and community.

“The retreat was an awesome time for encouragement, growth, reflection, and fellowship—not to mention capture the flag in the dark!”
— Ben, age 18

“I learned I won’t just stumble upon my purpose. I have to build up to it, accepting the gifts and talents God has given me.”
— Kaila, age 21

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