



## **Mentor Ministry Description**

### **General Program Description**

The Duke Youth Academy for Christian Formation (DYA) is a year-long program (one week of residency, one-year of online community engagement) sponsored by Duke Divinity School and generously funded by Lilly Endowment Inc., which provides each year the opportunity for 40 talented and passionate youth to pursue an intense journey of theological study and reflection. Through Christian practices of worship, prayer, hospitality, service, study and Sabbath rest, youth form habits and develop tools for theological reflection, ethical and moral decision-making, and discernment for Christian living. The Duke Youth Academy is open to youth from all Christian traditions who exhibit a love of learning and a desire for God. Students are eligible to apply during their 10<sup>th</sup>- or 11<sup>th</sup>-grade year for attendance during the summer before their junior or senior year of high school.

### **General Staff Information**

The Duke Youth Academy believes in forming strong relationships each summer between the students involved in the program and their staff members. As a result, we hire approximately 15 staff each year to work with 40 students.

Staff members are expected to be present for the entirety of the Duke Youth Academy residency portion and engaged with the DYA community online throughout the year. While we recognize that our staff members are involved in families and ministries away from Duke's campus, we expect each person to make arrangements to give her/his full attention to the Duke Youth Academy Residency dates listed below:

- Pre-DYA Staff Preparation: June 22-23, 2018
- 2018 Duke Youth Academy Residency: June 24-30, 2018

Staff members are also encouraged to attend the 2019 Duke Youth Academy Alumni Celebration in June 2019.

### **Qualifications**

Applicants must possess a faith in Jesus Christ and a genuine interest in and agreement with the purpose and mission of the Duke Youth Academy. They also must show a calling to the academic, social and emotional support of youth/adolescents. Applicants must be able to articulate their Christian faith in thoughtful, dynamic, and embodied ways. A positive attitude, emotional and spiritual maturity, and ability and willingness to work as part of a team are required. Applicants must be able to follow and enforce the rules and policies set forth by the Duke Youth Academy and Duke University. They should be hard-working, self-motivated individuals who are receptive to instruction and evaluation, and will take responsibility both for the persons in their care and the projects and activities associated with the Duke Youth Academy.

A minimum of four years of college/university education is required. Theological training and leadership experience with youth are preferred. Applicants with liturgical or fine arts training, field experience with community service organizations, including but not limited to community gardens, racial and gender

justice initiatives, and food justice organizations, or other distinctive outplaying of the faith are preferred. Experience in camp counseling or leadership in an academic summer program is helpful, as is work experience within a university or church setting and familiarity with the Duke campus.

### **General responsibilities and expectations**

- Live in residence hall with DYA participants and staff during Residency; make yourself available to DYA participants and staff full-time, except during specified time off.
- Attend all DYA events and activities, on dates outlined above.
  - During DYA Residency:
    - Attend scheduled meetings with DYA Director.
    - Attend all activities (including plenary sessions, meals, worship services, and worship and afternoon workshops) with DYA participants, except during specified time off.
    - Participate actively in preparation and clean-up for DYA program.
    - Prepare one Living Theology Workshop for students
  - During DYA Online Community:
    - Participate actively in online forums, providing leadership for one learning session, responding to questions and conversations on a timely basis.
    - Attend the Completion Celebration in person if local to Durham
- Assist DYA Ministry Coordinators with various areas of programming, as requested and appropriate.
- Act as a positive role model and resource for participants and other staff members, encouraging and supporting participants' academic, cultural and spiritual interests.
- Promote a sense of community among participants and staff.
- Provide pastoral leadership to participants and staff members, listening and guiding as appropriate.
- Maintain professional relationships with all staff members; relationships which interfere with performance of duties will not be tolerated.
- Maintain appropriate relationships with students/participants.
- Abide by all rules and policies set forth by the Duke Youth Academy, and enforce said rules and policies fairly and consistently.
- Provide general support of program activities related to DYA but not specified herein.

### **Specific responsibilities and expectations**

During Residency, with a mentor partner and ministry apprentice,

- Plan and facilitate nightly mentor group meetings:
  - Using DYA Mentor Group curriculum, plan nightly mentor group discussions.
  - Lead/facilitate discussion during mentor group meetings.
  - Facilitate spiritual and theological reflection on each day's themes.
  - Invite connections between themes, plenary sessions, workshops, and other activities.
  - Assist students with preparation for reintegration into home church communities.
- Develop an afternoon workshop introducing DYA students to a way of thinking and living theologically within a discipline of Christian practice (arts, justice work, hospitality, storytelling and testimony, etc.)

For more information, please contact:

Alaina Kleinbeck ▪ Director of the Duke Youth Academy  
1121 W Chapel Hill St. ▪ Suite 200 ▪ Durham, NC 27701 ▪ Phone: 919.613.5323 ▪ Email [duyouth@div.duke.edu](mailto:duyouth@div.duke.edu)

- Assist Ministry Apprentices in the maintaining of an orderly life in the residency halls.
- Supervise/facilitate student's development of one element of an evening worship service:
  - Help students think theologically about assigned Scripture lessons.
  - Supervise student selection of visual, liturgical and musical aspects of worship service.
  - Facilitate cooperation between all students in a worship planning group.
  - Facilitate incorporation of diverse voices in worship planning.
  - Assist students as they lead the planned worship service.
  - Participate in reflections on worship leadership after the planned service.
- As primary contact with students, maintain report log of behavioral or health issues for use by DYA Director, using forms provided.

Throughout the DYA year:

- Participating in online meetings (6 per year), lead one learning session during the year
- Collecting Practices Project milestone markers from students each quarter, offering constructive feedback and serving as an ongoing resource as needed.
- Attend the Completion Celebration in person if local to Durham
- As primary contact with students, maintain report log of behavioral or health issues raised by students for use by DYA Director, using forms provided.

After the Duke Youth Academy, maintain contact with students as appropriate in order to continue conversations around theological topics approached during the year.

### **Contract Dates**

**June 1, 2018-June 30, 2019** activities and responsibilities taking place on dates described above.

### **Compensation**

\$1900 honorarium (Dispersed in one payment of \$700 following residency, followed by 12 monthly payments of \$100) plus reimbursement of reasonable travel costs and approved program expenses for residency.

Full details regarding travel reimbursement can be found in the DYA Travel Reimbursement Guidelines.

**No contract is binding until a background check has been completed and approved.**

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