

About Upward Roots

Upward Roots was founded to empower underrepresented youth in Oakland to be leaders and changemakers through youth-led, youth-drive community service.

Currently, we partner with 17 Title 1 schools and their corresponding afterschool lead agencies to reach approximately 350 4th-8th graders each year through our programs. We are a registered nonprofit organization and approved OUSD community partner.

About our Program

The Youth Roots Program (YRP) is an after-school expanded-learning enrichment program where participants develop social emotional skills such as communication and collaboration as they think critically to address issues affecting their communities. Participants assess needs in their communities that they are passionate about and design and implement community service projects to address those needs.

The YRP is designed to meet weekly in the fall and spring over the course of 10 weeks. Ideally, 15 fifth graders, or 15 middle schoolers will be enrolled. (The number of enrolled participants should not be less than 12, nor more than 25.) Sessions are between 60-90 minutes, depending on the schedule agreed upon between the Site Leader, principal, and/or after-school program agency site leadership. Upward Roots empowers Site Leaders to manage and maintain the program schedule.

What does being a Site Leader entail?

- Attend initial training prior to fall implementation (scheduled date is August 26, 10-1 pm with lunch provided, a later date of September 16 from 10-1 pm is also tentatively scheduled)
- Serve as primary point person for Upward Roots programming within school
- Confirm schedule and commitment to site dates and times in coordination with afterschool agency
- Implement 10 weekly meetings lasting approximately 60 minutes each week in the fall and spring semesters
- Share program updates and service plans with Upward Roots team
- Collect all evaluative program data using survey tools provided
- We estimate the total time burden each semester to be 20 hours for Site Leaders

How does Upward Roots Support Site Leaders?

- Provide all supplies and materials necessary to implement the program
 - Complete curriculum, with session-by-session detailed instructions
 - Changemaker Journals for enrolled participants
 - All supplies materials for activities
- In collaboration with Site Leader, assist with participant recruitment as we are able
- In-person visits during implementation
- Weekly email and text check-ins
- We match service projects with community-based organizations and handle all of the logistics, as appropriate and possible
- We strive to empower Site Leaders to maximize program impact on campus by eliminating as many hassles as possible



Compensation

School day teachers or school employees, working after contract hours, are compensated \$500 per semester.

Typical Fall Schedule

August/September	Attend Upward Roots Training Meet with Upward Roots Executive Director and Program Coordinator to discuss schedule Complete School Contract
September	Youth enrollment in program Obtain enrollment roster and permission forms before start day Programming Commences Complete Initial Evaluations
October	Programming Continues
November/December	Service Day Implementation Complete Closing Evaluations

Typical Spring Schedule

January	Attend Upward Roots Learning Meeting to share lessons learned, successes, and discuss areas for greater support from Upward Roots Youth enrollment in program Obtain enrollment roster and permission forms before start day
February	Programming Commences Complete Initial Evaluations
March	Programming Continues
April/May	Service Day Implementation Complete Closing Evaluations

Are you interested, have questions, want to learn more? Contact Elizabeth elizabeth@upwardroots.org!