

SPRING 2023 SHIELD Saturday Leadership Academy (SSLA) Program Details

PROGRAM DATES: February 11, 2023 – April 29, 2023

(12-Week Program)

The program is structured around weekly group mentoring sessions.

\$75 - EARLY BIRD DEADLINE

(USE PROMO CODE: EARLYBIRDSALE)

(Applications received December 31, 2022, at 11:59 PM)

\$175 - FINAL APPLICATION

(Applications received between January 1, 2023 - January 22, 2023)

**Participant Fee: Covers a portion of the cost for the entire 12-week program.
Payment plans available.**

***** Participation [fee assistance](#) is available based upon financial need. Please email info@shieldmentor.org for more information. *****

This opportunity is open to new youth participants and preference will be given on a first-come, first-served basis during the application process.

Thank you for your interest in joining the SHIELD Mentor Program! Currently, we are seeking new participants to join our program for the *SHIELD Saturday Leadership Academy (SSLA)*. Youth participants in 4th grade - 12th grade with a commitment to strengthening their leadership skills can register to participate. Please learn about our program, including the required time commitment and registration fee, before applying.

It is particularly important that you read all of the information because we want to make sure your child has an opportunity to participate in our *SSLA* and not be left out.

Youth who participate in the program will:

- ❖ develop valuable leadership skills
- ❖ observe the qualities of communication, teamwork and leadership in their environment
- ❖ understand the difference between leadership and power
- ❖ achieve an enhanced sense of self and the impact one can have on the community
- ❖ gain confidence in communication and public speaking
- ❖ learn more ways to be involved and make a difference
- ❖ gain new friends and connections

[To apply, submit an application online.](#)

SHIELD Mentor Program | www.shieldmentor.org | info@shieldmentor.org | 336-337-2771

What are the expectations for my child participant to participate in the SHIELD Saturday Leadership Academy?

In order to keep your child's spot through the *SSLA*, they will be expected to fully participate. The program requires a 12-week long commitment. To successfully complete the program, youth participants are expected to attend all sessions and to fully participate, including mandatory orientation, mentoring activities and closing ceremony. Youth participants who choose not to follow these expectations will not be able to receive a certificate of completion in our *SHIELD Saturday Leadership Academy*. Any participant who misses two or more of the required workshops will be asked to reenroll into the program. The schedule is outlined below:

STRENGTHEN	HELP	INSPIRE	ENCOURAGE
 <p>Session 1: Getting Started February 11, 2023</p>	 <p>Session 4: Vision Your Future March 4, 2023</p>	 <p>Session 7: Career Exploration March 25, 2023</p>	 <p>Session 10: Problem-Solving April 15, 2023</p>
 <p>Session 2: Self-Awareness February 18, 2023</p>	 <p>Session 5: Goal Setting March 11, 2023</p>	 <p>Session 8: Connecting with Education April 1, 2023</p>	 <p>Session 11: Social Change April 22, 2023</p>
 <p>Session 3: Relationship-Building February 25, 2023</p>	 <p>Session 6: Aligning Behaviors March 18, 2023</p>	 <p>Session 9: Leadership Training April 8, 2023</p>	 <p>Session 12: Closing Ceremony April 29, 2023</p>

How do I sign my child up?

Applications will be available online. This means signing up ahead of time to save a spot for your child. This is important because we will only offer limited spots for all youth grades 4-12.

What if registration is full?

The registration system we have in place keeps count of the number of available spots and automatically begins the process for wait listing. Applications received once the slots are full will be placed on a waitlist in the order received. If a spot becomes available, you will be contacted automatically with further instructions on how to reserve your child's spot. This is why it is important to apply as soon as possible to have your best chance of securing a spot for your child.

[To apply, submit an application online.](#)

What is the selection and notification process?

The following group of youth participants will be selected for each grade level:

- **Grades 4-5** – junior participants help bring energy to the discussion. Having early leadership discussions help younger participants prepare a roadmap for success sooner rather than later.
- **Grades 6-8** – our programs have been historically geared toward this target population of youth. To continue to provide an elevated level of focus on the achievements of our middle school participants, we can bridge the gap for high dropout rates and low academic performance.
- **Grades 9-12**– freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors will join on a leadership capacity and will form a leadership committee for the overall program.

1. Upon receipt of the application materials, an acknowledgment email will be sent to the applicant.
2. After your application has been processed, you will be asked to review, complete and return important forms (i.e. medical release forms, rules and regulations forms, and enrollment agreement) and required payments to the SHIELD Mentor Program by specified dates.
3. Upon completion of formal admission to the program, you will be mailed a confirmation letter and a welcome packet, which includes detailed information about the *SSLA* to which you have been admitted.
4. After receiving your acceptance letter, the deadline to secure your child's acceptance into the program will be during the mandatory parent orientation.

How much does it cost?

The Participation Fee is \$175 (non-refundable) and covers only a portion of the cost of the program. We will send a FREE SHIELD portfolio notebook and t- shirt for each participant. Other program materials and supplies are made possible with the support of our community donors, partners and sponsors. Upon completion, participants will receive a completion award.

Are there any discounts or scholarships?

Fee Assistance

Fee assistance is available based on financial need. We try to accommodate as many spots as possible. Please complete the [online form](#) for consideration. Limited funds are available.

Sibling Discounts

For participants who have an immediate family member living in the same household and who submit their applications will be eligible for a sibling discount. You must inform us in writing (info@shieldmentor.org) that you are interested in the sibling discount for more details.

Early Bird Application Discounts

We offer an early bird application discount. To be eligible for the discount, the online portion of the application must be complete by the deadline to receive the nonrefundable registration fee of \$75 (**\$100 OFF**).

[To apply, submit an application online.](#)

How do I pay?

Payment can be made online during the online application process. You will be prompted to select your payment option. You may choose to pay in full or use the payment plan below:

OPTION 1: EARLY BIRD PARTICIPATION FEE = \$75 Application must be received by December 31, 2022 to receive the \$100 discount)

- **OPTION 2: FINAL DEADLINE PARTICIPATION FEE = \$175 (Applications received between January 1, 2023 through January 22, 2023)**

- **OPTION 3: Fee assistance is available based upon the number of available spots and financial need. Please complete the [online form](#) for consideration.**

The cost of the program must be paid in full. Failure to meet payment schedules could lose your child's place in the program. Forms of payment include credit card, check, and cash. ALL FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.

If paying by check please make checks out to the SHIELD Mentor Program with "SSLA" in the memo line and mail to 2715-D Grandview Ave., #218 Greensboro, NC 27408 by the registration deadline. Your application is NOT COMPLETE without securing the registration fee. For any questions, please email info@shieldmentor.org.

If you would like to help ensure any family can take part in our programs, consider making a tax-deductible donation to the [Fee Assistance Fund](#). These funds will be redistributed to cover program fees for families unable to afford the full cost. Thank you for helping make our programs accessible to all!

For any questions concerning our SHIELD Saturday Leadership Academy, registration, or anything else in this application packet, please contact us at info@shieldmentor.org.

SHIELD Mentor Program, founded in January of 2008, is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization that provides a full range of mentoring programs and services, providing the skills for success in leadership development. The structure of the mentoring programs creates an atmosphere that is designed to decrease the limitations in the lives of youth to help them become more likely to fulfill their highest potential. The mission of the SHIELD Mentor Program is to Strengthen, Help, Inspire and Encourage Leadership Development by delivering structured mentoring activities and programs for young people. Youth live in a world full of wonderful opportunities; the goal is to give them proper guidance to obtain them.

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Last Updated 10/02/2022