

AFTER SCHOOL matters®



Dear Program Provider,

Welcome to the After School Matters Program Providers Newsletter! This monthly newsletter will share updates, resources, and instructional strategies, as well as celebrate the successes of our teens and build community among our program providers. Enjoy!

Program Updates & Reminders

New After School Matters Program Types

After School Matters' mission is to provide teens with opportunities to explore and develop their talents while gaining critical skills for college, career, and beyond. Our program model makes it possible for teens to progressively become more independent as they get older and more skilled.

In order to more clearly and intentionally plan and define levels of experiences that best meet our teens' needs and prepare them for successful futures, we have recently refined the classifications within our program model. This includes the addition of a new program type, **Teen Assistantships**. Please click [here](#) to learn more.

Teen Interview Outcomes

Please be sure to complete the Interview Outcomes in Cityspan by **Monday, April 3, 2017**. For more details on entering Teen Interview Outcomes, click [here](#).

Advocacy Update – Funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers

The White House's recent proposal to eliminate federal funding for after-school and summer programs (through 21st Century Community Learning Centers) would have devastating consequences on organizations across the nation who believe in supporting youth – and most importantly, on young people themselves. Although After School Matters is not a recipient of federal funding and would not be directly impacted by the proposed cuts, they are deeply troubling nonetheless because they send the wrong message about after-school and summer programs, namely that they are not a national priority. Our teens – and all young people – deserve better.

As of now, this budget proposal is just that – a proposal. Now is the time to contact your representatives in Congress and encourage them to protect federal funding for after-school and summer programs. Use [this link](#) (provided by the Afterschool Alliance) to find your legislator and speak up on behalf of young people. Thank you for all that you do!



Important Dates & Deadlines

Spring 2017 Program Dates

Tuesday, February 21 -- Saturday, May 13, 2017

Monday, March 13 -- Saturday, May 27, 2017
(March-start programs)

Opportunities & Resources for Teens

Chicago Voices Student Songwriting Workshop

The Chicago Voices team is in search of the next generation of aspiring songwriters! Motivated students, grades 9-12, are encouraged to apply to the Chicago Voices Student Songwriting Workshop – a free, week-long intensive songwriting workshop, culminating with recording time in a professional studio.

Participants will hone their songwriting skills, while strengthening vocal technique and performance artistry. By the end of the workshop, each participant will have written and recorded an original song. Participants will receive an electronic copy of their work, which will also be featured on the Chicago Voices website.

Applications are due by 5:00pm CST on Friday, March 24, 2017. For more information, click [here](#).

ALPFA at UIC Scholarship

The Association of Latino Professionals for America (ALPFA) at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) is accepting applications to their third annual scholarship award. This year, ALPFA is awarding two scholarships to Latino students that will be attending UIC beginning in the Fall 2017 semester. For eligibility requirements and to access the scholarship application, please visit the ALPFA website [here](#). Please note that this scholarship is open to undocumented students, DACA recipients, U.S. permanent residents and U.S. citizens.

Applications are due by 11:59pm CST on Saturday, April 1, 2017.

2017 Society of Women Engineers Chicago Section Scholarship

The 2017 SWE Chicago Section High School Senior/Transfer Scholarship application is now open. This scholarship is open to female high school seniors or female junior college students that plan to major in engineering or computer science. For qualifications and to access the application, click [here](#).

Applications are due by 11:59pm CST on Monday, April 10, 2017.

Are We Really Going To Live Forever? The Promises and Perils of Artificial Intelligence

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) and Illinois Humanities invite you to join a panel of experts in the fields of arts, science, theology, national security, and tech as they provide their insights on the promises and perils of Artificial Intelligence and explore the answers to these questions on **Thursday, April 13**. The event is **free and open to the public**, though seating is limited. Reserve your seat today by emailing SAICevents@saic.edu. For more information, click [here](#).

YoungArts Fellows

The 2017 YoungArts application is now open!

Do you have teens who are a visual, literary, design, or performing artists between the ages of 15-18?

Encourage them to apply to the YoungArts national arts competition!

Through YoungArts, they can:

- Receive up to \$10,000 in cash awards
- Take master classes with accomplished artists top in their field
- Become eligible for nomination as a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts
- Receive a lifetime of mentoring and professional support

- Achieve national recognition

[Learn more & apply!](#)

Applications are open until Friday, October 13, 2017.

Check out more [teen opportunities](#) at afterschoolmatters.org.

Program Provider Highlight

Renea Walker Family Focus Digital Media



Renea Walker has been an After SchoolMatters instructor for many years. She is the instructor for the Family FocusDigital Media program in the North Lawndale community. In her program, teenswork hands-on with digital video equipment and software, while gaining insight intodigital media as a career. By allowing teens to work in small film productioncrews, Renea challenges teens to research, think critically, and workcollaboratively, all while producing short films that reflect themselves andtheir communities.

Thank you, Renea, for all that you do for After School Matters and our teens!

Instructional Strategy of the Month

Open Ended Questions

[Source: Marin Schools]

“Never ask a [young person] a question you already know the answer to.”

Questions that have more than one right answer, or ones that can be answered in many ways, are called **open-ended** or divergent questions. This way of asking questions signals that you value a young person's voice or opinion, stimulates more language use, acknowledges that there can be many solutions to one problem, affirms ideas, and encourages creative thinking. Close-ended questions usually limit conversation to a one or two word response, and sometimes they end the conversation.

Examples:

Close-ended question: "Did you use warm or cool colors?"

Open-ended question: "How did you choose these colors? What do they remind you of?"

Using these Open-Ended questions is also a scoring item on the **Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA)** conducted by After School Matters. More information and prompts you can use for asking your teens open-ended questions can be found [here](#) (English and Spanish prompts available).

Safety First!

If you'd like to transport teens in connection with an After School Matters program or field trip, coordinate with your Program Specialist to learn about approved transportation options, such as hiring a bus or riding the CTA.

Remember — you are not authorized to transport program participants in your own vehicle to, from, or during programs or field trips!

Teen Stipend Reminders

Urban Partnership Bank

This spring, in partnership with Urban Partnership Bank, **teens are able to cash their stipend checks for just \$1 at any Chicago and Urban Partnership Bank!**

School IDs, State IDs and Driver's Licenses will be accepted as forms of identification for cashing checks. Teens can find the nearest Urban Partnership Bank location [here](#).

Contact Us!

You can reach the **Teen Stipend Hotline** at 312-768-5199 or [email us](#).

Thank you for showing teens they matter.

Connect with us on social media for more program highlights.



#TeensMATTER

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