

## Yale University President's Public Service Fellowship

### Proposal for Fellowship Placement • Summer 2017

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- **Organization:** Solar Youth, Inc.
  - **Full street address of organization:**  
  
53 Wayfarer Street, New Haven CT 06515
  - **Website:** [www.solaryouth.org](http://www.solaryouth.org)
  - **Name and title of the Direct Supervisor (*please note: the Direct Supervisor must be available to supervise Fellow on a daily basis*):** Khadija Bshara, Program Director
  - **Phone number and e-mail address of Direct Supervisor:** [Khadija@solaryouth.org](mailto:Khadija@solaryouth.org)  
203-387-4189
  - **Placement dates (*8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 30 and Friday, August 11, 2017*):** May 30-Aug 11
  - **Are placement dates flexible? If so, please describe:** Start date is negotiable
  - **Hours of the program (*placements should be equivalent to full-time*):**  
8:30 to 4:30 once camp begins or 9:30 to 5:30 before then Monday-Friday
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## Placement Description

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**Organization description (*Mission statement, population served. 150 words or less.*):**

Solar Youth, Inc. is a New Haven-based non-profit youth development and environmental education organization founded by youth and adults. Our mission is to empower young people from New Haven's low income neighborhoods to achieve lifelong success through connection with their environment, their communities and each other. In our programs for youth ages 5-19 youth build the skills and motivations necessary to be positive contributors to their community, have healthy relationships, be physically and mentally healthy, and become economically self-sufficient.

Our programs allow youth to follow our "Cycle of Stewardship"; youth build on their experiences, maintain relationships, progressively gain more complex leadership skills, become agents of positive change in their environments, and then serve as role models for younger children.

**Please write a 1-2 sentence summary of the work that the Fellow would be conducting**

The Fellow at Solar Youth will have the opportunity to experience the overall and day-to-day administrative and programmatic aspects of our Summer Camp program. The Fellow will work directly with the Program Director in the planning phase of camp in addition to supporting program staff in activity and curriculum planning and preparation for Solar Youth Summer Camp program before camp begins. Once the camp begins the Fellow will then transition into the role of a camp educator working directly with the campers daily.

- **Please write a complete description of the specific project you propose and list the duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow. (*Suggested length: one to two pages.*)**

The Fellow will work in close collaboration with Solar Youth's Program and Summer Camp Director(s) and other Solar Youth program staff to coordinate one of our Summer Camp programs. Prior to and during the five-week program, the Fellow will develop and implement environmental education and/or team-building lessons with the guidance of Solar Youth staff. Lessons are hands-on, interactive, fun and usually outdoors and are intended to provide youth with an overall understanding of New Haven's ecology (themes are chosen during staff training). Basically, the best choices are things YOU are excited about. Lessons may include anything from learning songs to playing games to going on hikes and other adventures to conducting experiments.

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In addition, the Fellow will help youth identify and develop Community Service Action Projects (C-SAPs) to address problems youth identify, and figure out ways to teach others what they have learned and accomplished via Public Education Projects (PEPs). Past C-SAPs have included river clean ups, storm drain stenciling, building a footbridge on a trail in West Rock Park, and organizing a fundraiser for a local soup kitchen. Past PEPs have included staging anti-litter guerrilla theater on New Haven Green, performing skits on local watersheds for older adults at the West Rock Community Center, and staging a Public Education Forum (PEF) presentation on a variety of issues at New Haven Public Library.

<b>Dates (approximate)</b>	<b>Work Times</b>	<b>Focus</b>	<b>Fellow Responsibilities</b>
May 31 to June 29	8 hours/day (flexible)	PLANNING	Youth outreach and recruitment, curriculum development, trip planning, etc.
June 20 to June 30	9am to 5pm	TRAINING/SPACE PREP	For adult staff and teenage interns. Topics include SY curriculum, conflict resolution, team-building, outdoor adventure, game leadership, etc. Yale Fellow may assist or lead training in areas he/she has familiarity with.
June 27 to August 8	8:30am to 4:30pm	PROGRAM	Programs run from 9am to 3pm. Daily staff meetings occur from 3:30 to 4:30 where day's events, behavior/team issues and future plans are discussed.

• **Specific skills/experience required for the project (*Please list*):**

Required:

- Experience, and passion for, working with youth
- Excellent communication skills
- Interest in gaining program planning skills
- Interest in learning principles and practices of environmental education and positive youth development
- Interest in working outdoors and some knowledge of life sciences and environmental issues
- Energy, patience and a sense of humor
- Must be a problem solver with a positive attitude



*Figure 1. 2016 YUPPS Fellow and Solar Youth stewards after a clean-up project*

Helpful:

- Environmental education experience
- Meditation, Yoga
- Nonviolent communication and conflict resolution skills
- Social work experience
- Experience with outdoor adventure activities (canoeing, hiking, etc.)
- First Aid training
- Experience with/interest in nonviolent communication and mindfulness



*Figure 2. 2014 YUPPS Fellow and Solar Youth Stewards on a hike at Sleeping Giant*

- **Additional requirements (e.g. a car or weekend working hours). If a car is required, please include information regarding parking arrangements and mileage reimbursement):**

A car is helpful, however not a requirement, as program sites are within reach by public transportation. Staff are often willing to carpool. Mileage reimbursement is only available for trips over 15 miles outside of the normal travel area. Parking is available for special circumstances where paid parking is unavoidable.

- **Briefly describe the work that Yale PPSF Fellows have done with your agency in the past and present. If you have not worked with Yale Fellows, please describe any work that Yale students have done with your agency.**

In the past, Yale undergraduates and graduate students have acted as Educators in our summer camp programs. This includes assisting staff with the program preparation, administrative logistics and daily planning work in addition to curriculum development and day to day teaching. Their experience includes curriculum development and programming, working in collaboration with Solar Youth adult and youth staff and even securing donated program supplies. Depending on the Fellow's interests, skill sets and time use efficiency, opportunities for assistance with other areas of the organization including fund development and research have also presented themselves.