

# Harvard College Youth Leadership Initiative

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October 1, 2015

Dear Students and Parents,

I am writing to inform you about an upcoming opportunity to work with college students and hone your interpersonal leadership skills through a Harvard College program.

I am a co-director of the Harvard Youth Leadership Initiative. Through the Phillips Brooks House Association, Harvard's major volunteer organization, we run weekly sessions to develop middle school students into successful young leaders. These sessions cover a wide variety of topics, including public speaking, persuasion, delegation strategies and many more.

While we maintain a core curriculum, the program experience is very diverse and flexible and stems from student discussion and decisions. Last year, for example, one of our activities was identifying and raising awareness for a cause that needed supports. The students ended up raising hundreds of dollars to support local animal shelters! We were also able to fit in a trip to the Harvard Skating Rink, where many of our directors learned how to skate for the first time.

Our mentors are all Harvard College students and have demonstrated excellence in many areas of service and leadership. Among our 2014-2015 team, we have raised tens of thousands of dollars for various causes (foreign and domestic), founded local service groups to better our communities and even organized social development conferences at Harvard. We look forward to sharing the strategies and tips from these experiences with you so that you can make your own mark!

We had a very successful fall session with about 20 students that will be returning, and we are hoping to expand membership in the spring! Please send an email to [hyli@pbha.org](mailto:hyli@pbha.org) if you are interested in getting involved; don't worry if you missed last term, we like to keep our material fresh and new every session so you won't have trouble keeping up with the returning students!

## **Quick Hits:**

- **What:** The Harvard Youth Leadership Initiative, a program specifically designed to mentor Cambridge middle school students into budding leaders.
- **When:** Sessions are on Saturdays, 11-1 starting January 31<sup>st</sup> and ending mid-April. Please email us if you would like a more comprehensive schedule!
- **Where:** All of our sessions are on Harvard campus.
- **Why:** Meet other young active leaders, sharpen your strengths and develop your weaknesses, learn from the experience of college students dedicated to mentoring you.

If you have any more questions about HYLI, feel free to email me at [matthewdisorbo@college.harvard.edu](mailto:matthewdisorbo@college.harvard.edu). I look forward to hearing from you!

Yours,

Matt DosSantos DiSorbo