

Youth Leadership Development and Community Involvement Program (YLDCIP) FAQ

These frequently asked questions (FAQ) address some of the questions you may have about YLDCIP. Please contact the instructor, Mr. Pickering in Social Studies (LC322, apickering@ortn.edu), for more information.

Where may I volunteer for my YLDCIP placement? Any organization that serves the greater community of Oak Ridge, Anderson County, or Roane County is a possible YLDCIP volunteer site. Elementary schools, middle schools, churches, government offices, charities, and other non-profit organizations (such as The Legal Aid Society) are common placements. Since you will have to drive to the site yourself and back during a standard ORHS class period, sites that are within a short driving time of ORHS are preferred. The only on-campus placement available to YLDCIP is the CDC program.

Can my organization pay me for my YLDCIP work? No, YLDCIP is a volunteer program and students may not earn money while earning school credit. If an organization wishes to employ you beyond your class hours for pay, however, that is permissible. Other ORHS departments do offer work-based learning during the day.

May I work in a medical placement? Due to liability issues and patient privacy issues, YLDCIP students may not volunteer in a patient-care capacity. Positions involving direct patient care must go through the CTE department's programs. Care environments where volunteer activities are non-medical may be possible through YLDCIP. If you are not sure, apply and explain your prospective role in the application for review.

Do I earn credit and a grade for YLDCIP? Yes, YLDCIP is a credit-bearing honors class. Students earn grades on the honors scale and earn the additional honors GPA boost for their YLDCIP credits.

Can I take YLDCIP as a full-year class? Yes, you may register for YLDCIP both semesters.

During which periods may I take YLDCIP? Although we do not know which periods are available until the master schedule is completed, YLDCIP is generally scheduled either 1st, 4th, 6th, or 8th to make the transitions on and off campus easier. Students interact with the instructor mainly through Canvas as an online course.

May I take more than one YLDCIP period? Students typically only take YLDCIP for one period during the day. If your schedule permits it and your YLDCIP assignment relates clearly to your career and college readiness, however, it is possible to YLDCIP for more than one period. These cases will be reviewed on a one-by-one basis. Students serving more than one period must complete additional and more complex project work.

What work is involved beyond the volunteer work I do on-site each day? The workload for YLDCIP is not burdensome, but students must earn the credit by completing work beyond simply showing up each day. Three criteria determine your grade: 1) attendance reporting (via Canvas), 2) mentor evaluations of your work, and 3) your work on the action-research project. The workload is typical for a junior or senior level honors course.

What is the YLDCIP action-research project? You will identify an area of potential improvement or expansion for your organization (1st nine weeks), research how other professionals are addressing these challenges and write about it (approximately 4 pages, 2nd), design and implement a project to help your organization (3rd), and evaluate the results and report on them (4th). It requires less time to complete than many traditional classes' coursework (since you are also volunteering daily). Procrastinators should beware, however.