

URBANA YOUTH CENTER

a project of the GrandWorks Foundation

Program Snapshot 2021-2022

Currently, the UYC serves about 450 student members across the demographic spectrum. Many of our members come from a background of poverty, experience an unstable home life, or are classified as disadvantaged by the Ohio Department of Education. UYC seeks to address these challenges by providing a comprehensive lineup of programs to our members.

All UYC programs are provided at no cost to students. Those eligible to become student members live in the geographic area of Urbana City Schools or attend UCS and are currently in grades 6-12.

Standing Programs

- **Homework & Study Assistance** – students receive assistance with homework and study habits. Often, volunteers are retired schoolteachers. The program also provides a quiet space for students who may not need assistance, but wish to work independently.
- **Hygiene Program** – access to basic hygiene items like toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, and shampoo as well as laundry services at no cost.
- **Career Readiness Program** – students are inspired and equipped to find fulfilling careers that meet their interests and skills. This includes job application and resume assistance, pairing students with prospective employers, and preparing students for the workforce.
- **Nutrition Program** – students enjoy a secure and consistent food source by receiving free snacks and dinner on days the youth center is open.
- **Hangout Spaces** – a space for students to create friendships, build community, and have fun in a safe environment.
- **Mentoring Program** – for students facing disciplinary action at UYC or for those seeking a guiding hand, this program connects students regularly with adult guidance and provides a safe space to be heard.

Auxiliary Programs

- **Essential Life Skills** – students learn how to perform tasks and techniques that will help them become more independent and ready for adulthood.
- **Art & Crafts** – students express themselves through a variety of mediums like drawing, painting, crafting, and digital design.
- **Music Program** – freedom to practice musical instruments, to have fun, develop skills, and express emotions in a healthy way.
- **Drama/Theatre Camp** – a summer program to provide students the opportunity to further their performance skills or experience a musical for the first time.
- **Yoga & Meditation** – students are taught basic yoga and meditation practices to improve flexibility, reduce stress, and increase relaxation.
- **Pet Care** – students learn how to take responsibility by assisting with the care, training, and socialization of animals in local shelters.
- **Support & Social Groups** – students in various communities and can share challenges and receive support in a safe and encouraging space. These programs include a Faith Exploration group, LGBTQ+ club, and others as desired by student members.