



Working together to construct a better world for all

A VISION - Imagine a group of 11-year-olds walking around, purposefully looking for a way to make their community a better place, knowing they are going to cause the change... Now imagine hundreds of thousands of youth all over the world resolutely looking for opportunities to make their communities better; armed with the experience, skills, and desire to implement projects to effect change in the community. In just a few years, these youth become adults, millions strong, actively striving to improve the human condition; knowing beyond a doubt that they can, must, and will make a difference...

Participate in the activities of a junior youth group today!

The program is implemented by forming groups of 10 to 15 junior youth in a neighborhood. In the group, bonds of friendship, love and a sense of a common goal are established. The junior youth group serves as an environment of mutual support for its members, one in which they can develop the spiritual perception and patterns of thought and behavior that will characterize them as youth. The group meets once a week for 2 to 3 hours every meeting. It is recommended to apply this program for 3 consecutive years.

Junior Youth Group

Day:

Time:

Location:

**For more information, contact
philadelphia.jysep@gmail.com or
267-573-9854**

Other contact information:

Name:

Phone number:

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Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program

*"The betterment of the
world can be accomplished
through pure and goodly
deeds, through
commendable and seemly
conduct."*



What is the Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program (JYSEP)?

JUNIOR YOUTH - Junior Youth refers to a special group, ranging in age from 11 to 14, with special needs as they are somewhat between **childhood** and **youth** when many changes are occurring within them.

SPIRITUAL - Spiritual refers to the universal moral concepts common to all faiths and traditions that exist in the world today, such as truthfulness, unity, justice, cooperation, service to humanity, striving for excellence, and relying on God for guidance and assistance.

EMPOWERMENT -

Empowerment means to assist young people to take ownership of their personal development and to build capacity for meaningful social action in their communities.



"Let each morn be better than its eve and each morrow richer than its yesterday."

The aim of the Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program is to assist junior youth (ages 11-14) to take ownership for their spiritual and intellectual development, to develop a strong sense of purpose and the volition needed to make good decisions, and to engage in meaningful social action in their communities.

Premise of the JYSEP: Creative attention must be devoted to involving junior youth in programs of activity that will engage their interests, mold their capacities for service, assist them to transform their communities, involve them in social interaction with older youth and prepare them to become youth. The program explores themes from a Bahá'í perspective but not in the mode of religious instruction.

Age of maturity: The age of 15 is seen as the age of spiritual maturity when young people are capable of taking responsibility for their spiritual life. The Bahá'í writings inform the vision for the capacity of youth when they have been educated properly and cross the threshold of maturity by stating that "The period of youth is characterized by strength and vigor and stands out as the choicest time in human life. [It should be distinguished by] sanctity and detachment, loftiness of purpose, magnanimity, spiritual qualities....".

Activities: Within the group, the junior youth study character development themes, develop the power of expression, discuss difficult issues with peers, create art, play cooperative games, engage in healthy recreation and plan & carry out service projects.

Materials: Each group centers on the study of materials, which have been developed and adopted in junior youth groups around the globe. Their relevance goes beyond cultural or religious boundaries. They seek to help junior youth develop an intellectual and spiritual framework with which to approach their path in life.

Who are "the animators"?? An adult or older youth, an animator, will assist the junior youth in their journey throughout the program. The animator is a trained, unpaid mentor who treats the junior youth not as children but as equals.

