



SJLA FAQ FOR STUDENTS

***Domus' Social Justice Leadership Academy will be taking place Saturday, June 9, 2017, from 9am to 6pm.**

What do you mean by “social justice”? Broadly speaking, social justice issues reflect movements that push for greater voice and more representation for underrepresented or underpowered communities. Topics we will be focusing on are poverty, income equality, the achievement gap, food insecurity, the juvenile justice system, homelessness, and the role of government in society.

What types of things will we do during the academy? Activities will include brief presentations by sector experts, whole- and small-group discussions, visits to local nonprofit organizations engaged in battling the effects of poverty and inequality, and community exploration of these issues existing in our own backyards. We have purposefully minimized “lecture”/classroom time, instead creating opportunities for active discussions and debates in a trusting environment.

Will I earn community service hours? Yes—you will earn 9 community service hours. We will provide you with a letter upon completion of the training.

What will I learn? You will better understand the root causes and effects of poverty and income equality and how it impacts people, organizations, communities, and institutions. We’ll also explore what you can do, now and in the future, as a philanthropist, volunteer, thought leader, and policy maker; this includes making a small grant via the *Giving Circle* (see below) to one or more nonprofits you believe are effectively addressing the issues you care most about.

Who’s attending this? We have invited male and female students entering 10th through 12th grade and college students from cities and towns in Connecticut and New York. We invite you to recruit a friend or two who you think would be a good fit for this.

What is the Giving Circle? The Giving Circle will allow you to be an active part of solving the challenges you’ve spent time learning about. At the end of your experience, you’ll learn about philanthropy and begin to practice it by deciding as a group what nonprofit(s) you want to support based on what you’ve seen, heard, researched, and discussed. We ask that you bring \$50-\$100 with you to pool. The amount each student contributes will remain anonymous. Only the final amount will be revealed.

I need to leave for part of the day for a doctor’s appointment/school thing/sports practice; is that allowed? Unfortunately, no. We need everyone to participate fully, and that means no one is able to leave the group for a portion of our time together. We hope you can join us the next time.

What items should I bring? We’ll provide everything you need for the day; just show up with an open heart and curious mind and be ready to participate. We need your probing questions, insightful comments, and, at the end, your honest feedback.

I’m not sure...can I talk with someone at Domus to find out more about this? Please email Julia Wade @ jwade@domuskids.org, call her cell (203) 249-4110, or text her. She will be back to you within 24 hours.