



“It’s important for these teens to talk to someone who can be objective and honest. Everyone has advisors along the way as they make decisions about their careers.”

Dr. Stephanie LeMelle
Assistant Director, Washington Heights Community Center

Meet unlimited potential

YAC students dream of becoming designers, journalists, teachers, and doctors. They are smart and ambitious, but they need support and direction to reach their goals and potential.

YAC students have survived problems at home, in school, and in their communities. Many are in foster care, placed in temporary foster homes and group homes until they are turned out to “independence.” They don’t have a lot of successful role models giving them good advice.

YAC students know that we can’t change their past, but we can change their future. They have already taken action to better their lives, by enrolling in YAC’s *Getting Beyond the System* Seminar. During this semester-long course, students learn self-advocacy: how to set goals, develop concrete plans for the future, how to cope with difficult job and school situations. For their final project, they prepare for informational interviews to learn more about their career options.

Meeting you for an informational interview is a major step for these teens. You are probably the first person they will meet who is doing something they’d like to do one day. In one interview, you will provide them with invaluable career information and motivation that they won’t get anywhere else.

Your time is valuable

To make this as simple as possible, the student will come to your workplace, at a time convenient to you. We ask that you set aside a half hour to talk. That’s it.

In the informational interview, you’ll meet with a student who wants your advice and wisdom. YAC carefully matches each student with a leading professional in the field of the student’s interest. YAC prepares students to make the most of the half hour informational interview. Our students have considered their career objectives and are ready with questions for you.

Informational interviewers and students tell us that in this short time together, a lot happens. Students take to heart the knowledge a busy professional has shared, and our informational interviewers feel good that they have helped a young person think through his or her choices and options.

YAC makes it easy to make a difference

Participating Informational Interviewers include:

Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP • Revlon • Lowe Worldwide • ESPN • Pennie & Edmonds • CBS Sports • Montefiore Hospital • Kang & Lee • Honeybee Robotics • SONY Music • O’Connor Davies Munns & Dobbins LLP • New York City Transit • Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center • New York University • Lansner and Kubitschek • Brooklyn Botanic Garden • HBO • The Blackstone Group • TESTU • Baker & McKenzie • New York District Attorney’s Office • The New York Observer • Shorenstein Company • Universal Music and Video Distribution • New York City Council • Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP • NYPD • NPOWER NY • Jonathan Adler New York • Showtime • Lynn Gernert Architects • Mount Sinai Hospital • New York City Fire Department • J.Crew Inc.

Get involved

Call us or visit www.youthadvocacycenter.org/infointerviews.html

“Talking to a teen who is at the same point I was at that age who wants to do something creative is great. It is very fulfilling to answer their questions and find out why I love what I do.”

Brian Selznick
Illustrator and Author



Who else but you?

You can inspire a young person to strive for a better future. Your experience and wisdom will have an impact on a young person interested in what you do.

Youth Advocacy Center arranges for leading professionals and experts, like you, to meet with students for informational interviews. YAC students want to hear about what you do and how you got there. They are hungry for your advice and are ready to make the most of it. By suggesting a school to look into, showing the student around the office, or telling a story about when you were starting out, you motivate him to get on the right track to reach his goals and potential.

The teens have taken a rigorous program to prepare for this meeting, and for their future.



“I want to understand the goals and aspirations of young people – we read about them, but we need to recognize that this is our future, too. And while it benefits them, it’s rewarding to me – I needed guidance at that age. Who am I not to return the favor?”

Len Elmore
Basketball Analyst, ESPN; Chair, YAC Advisory Board

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Youth Advocacy Center



Share your knowledge
CHANGE A FUTURE

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Your career advice
A YOUNG PERSON’S AMBITION