
Involving youth in public health and policy: The Young Worker Leadership Academy

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Goals of the Academy:

- Teach youth about workplace safety, rights on the job
- Help youth think about policy and education strategies for protecting youth on the job
- Provide a forum for youth to plan specific actions they can take in their communities
- Develop young leaders who are spokespeople and advocates on young worker issues

Partners:

- California Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation
- UC Berkeley LOHP
- UCLA LOSH
- California Center for Civic Participation



Funding:

- Funded and administered by the California Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation
- Additional funding from:
 - State Compensation Insurance Fund
 - Employers Direct Insurance Company
 - The California Wellness Foundation
 - The California Endowment

The Academy

- 2.5 days (Thursday afternoon to Saturday)
- Health and safety training
- Learning about public policy
- Practice planning and conducting educational activities
- Separate sessions for adult mentors
- Youth mentors return from previous years




Recruitment and Selection

- Email announcements
- 25-30 teams of youth apply each year (90-100 youth)
- 12 teams selected for geographic diversity (50 youth)

Presented by
UCLA, UC Berkeley, and the
California Commission on Health and Safety & Workers' Compensation

Young Worker Leadership Academy

January 24–26, 2008, Berkeley CA
— or —
February 21–23, 2008, Los Angeles CA



What is it?

- Come to a fun, activity-packed, 3-day leadership training for youth on job health and safety.
- To sign up, form a team of 3-4 young people (ages 14–17). You'll work with your team to create a community project or event to promote safe jobs for youth during May 2008. Your team must have an adult advisor.
- You'll get an all-expenses-paid 2-night stay at a hotel in either Berkeley or Los Angeles, plus a \$75 cash stipend.
- Afterward, you'll be part of a statewide youth network on young worker rights and health and safety!

Why would I want to do this?

- I am interested in building my leadership skills.
- I care about issues affecting people my age and want to have an impact on my community.
- I need to complete community service hours for school and this would be great!
- I want to meet new, fun people!

How do I sign up?

- Your team should complete the attached application by **November 9, 2007**.
- Questions? Contact: Diane Bush, (888) 933-8336 (toll free) or (510) 643-2424, dbush@berkeley.edu.

****I learned about teen safety and rights - I never knew I had. I want to tell other people what I learned so they can prevent injury to themselves.****

****Now I want to learn more. I enjoyed the Academy and would love to be involved throughout high school and beyond.****

The Young Worker Leadership Academy (YWLA) is part of the Worker Occupational Safety and Health Training and Education Program (WOSHTEP), which is funded and administered by the Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation. The YWLA is also funded in part by a grant from The California Workers Foundation and supported by the California Partnership for Young Worker Health and Safety.

What was the draw?

- “Youth Leadership”
- All-expenses paid, 2-night hotel stay
- \$75 stipend
- UC campus



YWLA 2005, 2006, 2007

- 5 Academies conducted (North and South)



- 112 youth have participated
- 15 have returned as youth mentors at least once

School-based Teams

- Work Experience Programs
- Vocational/Technology Education Programs
- Leadership Programs
- Alternative Schools



Community-based Teams

- Environmental and community justice coalitions
- Community job training/youth leadership programs
- Church-based youth programs
- Girl Scouts



Learning about Workplace Safety



Jeopardy: Rights on the Job



Role play: How to Speak Up



Worksite Interviews



Creating the ideal community: The role of policy makers



Practice planning an educational project



Fun!



Youth Mentors in Action



Adult Sponsor Sessions

- Expectations
- Needs Assessment
- Brainstorm ideas
- Share strategies



Projects:

Promote Safe Jobs for Youth in May

- Workshops at
 - Schools
 - Churches
 - Community organizations



Projects:

Promote Safe Jobs for Youth in May

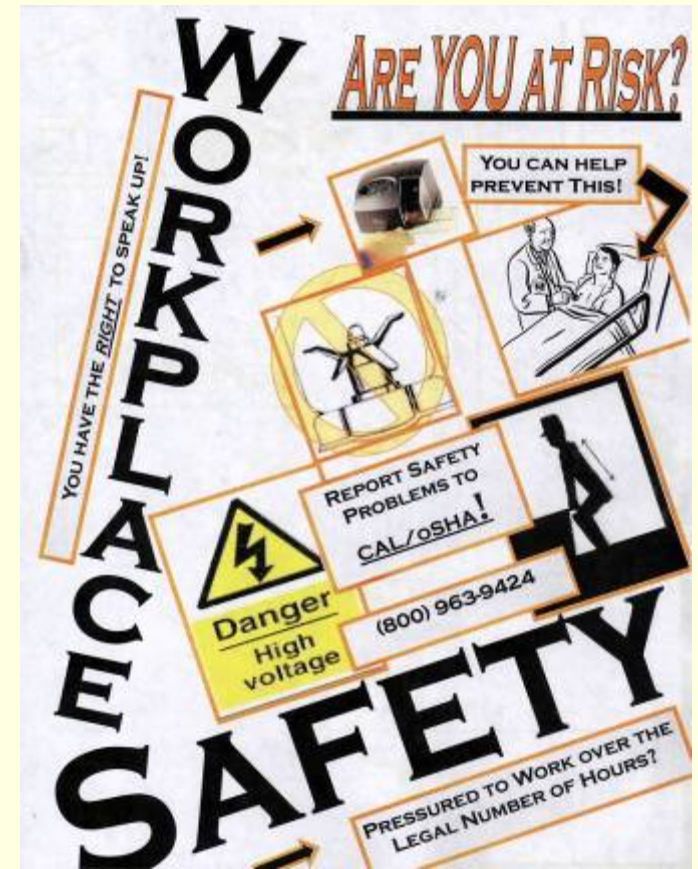
- Materials Development and Outreach
 - Brochures
 - Pocket cards
 - Powerpoints
 - Videos



Projects:

Promote Safe Jobs for Youth in May

- School events and activities



Projects:

Promote Safe Jobs for Youth in May

- Participation in regional conferences and resource fairs



Projects:

Promote Safe Jobs for Youth in May

- Work with the media
 - Radio interviews
 - Video PSAs

To view: <http://www.dir.ca.gov/YoungWorker/PSAcontest.asp>

Projects:

Promote Safe Jobs for Youth in May

- Teen Employment Scene Conference
 - Kicked off Safe Jobs for Youth Month
 - Organized by 3 youth mentors (YWLA 2006)
 - 300 high school youth attended



Projects:

Promote Safe Jobs for Youth in May

- Teen Employment Scene Conference
 - 6 simultaneous workshops run by YWLA youth
 - Resource Fair
 - Evaluation



Evaluation



- Written and oral qualitative evaluation of Academy itself
- Interviews with participants at Academy
- Written evaluation from teams, adults and youth after community activity is completed, including documentation (photos, materials developed, T-shirts...)
- Group phone call with adult sponsors in July

Impact of the Academies



- 28 of 30 teams successfully conducted activities in their communities
- Community activities reached over 4000 youth and other community members
- 15 youth have returned as mentors
- Youth mentors developed a Myspace site

Plans for 2008



- 2 academies, in Northern and Southern California (50 youth)
- 12 youth from 2006 Academies will help with 2008 Academies
- Publish Guidelines for running a YWLA
 - Complete description, photos, etc.
 - Sample agenda, recruitment tools, instructions for teaching activities

Lessons Learned



- Recruit teams younger teens
- Emphasize time needed to conduct community activities
- Significant staff time and resources are needed to stay connected with teams
- Present workplace health and safety as a “right”
- Potential for network of youth health and safety advocates not yet fully realized!

