



The Banyan Foundation  
Youth Leadership Council  
Q & A

Q: What is The Banyan Foundation Youth Leadership Council?

*A: It is a Los Angeles based program that strives to develop young leaders and advance the field of service learning. The goal is to activate young people to create positive change in their community through lessons in philanthropy, social enterprise and leadership.*

Q: When was The Banyan Foundation started?

*A: The Banyan Foundation (formerly The Summa Children's Foundation) launched its Youth Leadership council in the Fall of 2017. After 12 years of raising millions of dollars for Southern California based non-profits dedicated to improving the lives of at risk youth through their health, educational and social programs, The Banyan Foundation is committed to empowering our next generation with the tools, resources and knowledge to think differently about their lives and how they can create lasting and systemic change around them.*

Q: What are the requirements to become a member of The Banyan Youth Leadership Council?

*A: We are looking for students who possess a genuine interest in making a positive contribution to their local community. These kids have a level of maturity that enables them to respect the diversity of our group's backgrounds and viewpoints. The leadership council is comprised of young adults (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders) that exemplify leadership qualities and are of high moral and ethical standing. Our Youth Leadership Council members are required to maintain high academic standing.*

Q: How does my child apply?

*A: Applicants are required to fill out an online application. The application window stays open throughout the year but the deadline for each year is September 1<sup>st</sup>. Simply click the "Become a Member" button on the home page of the website and complete the online application.*

[www.thebanyanfoundation.org](http://www.thebanyanfoundation.org)

Q: What is the commitment for my child?

*A: Each youth member is required to attend approximately 14 meetings which generally occur on Sunday mornings between early October and mid-May. They must be able to work along side and collaborate with other students as they engage in various activities focused in the area of philanthropy, leadership and social enterprise. We will provide the meeting dates in advance but they are subject to change throughout the year.*

Q: Who runs the organization and meetings?

*A: The Executive Director of the Youth Leadership Council is Dr. Jon Carroll. Jon currently serves as Dean of the Middle School at Harvard-Westlake. The Banyan Foundation has a four person Board, comprised of business professionals with diverse backgrounds and deep experience in the area of philanthropy. (See Bio's on our website) Dr. Jon Carroll along with the Banyan Foundation board members, strategic advisors and outside consultants and speakers will be called upon based on the week's agenda. Over the course of year, the YLC members will be exposed to community leaders, philanthropists, entrepreneurs, business owners and others who bring perspectives and experiences integral to our program's success.*

Q: Is there a membership or donation required to be a part of the Youth Leadership Council?

*A: No, we are fortunate to have major benefactors who cover the costs of running the foundation. Families have the option of making a gift to the foundation which helps contribute to the long term sustainability of the foundation.*

Q: Where and how often will the Youth Leadership Council meet?

*A: Meetings take place on Sunday mornings between 9:30 am – 12 pm. Most often, the meetings take place at 10880 Wilshire Boulevard in Westwood near UCLA. The YLC makes several off site visits to Los Angeles based non-profits throughout the year.*

Q: What happens if my child cannot attend a meeting due to a conflict, travel schedule, sickness, etc.?

*A: Each member of the youth leadership council is required to attend 75% of the required meeting hours. We realize that some conflicts will occur but we have scheduled meetings around all major holidays and school breaks to try to avoid as many conflicts as possible.*

Q: Do the philanthropic hours conducted at The Banyan Youth Leadership Council count towards any required school community service hours?

*A: Yes. The Banyan Foundation will provide you with a signed letter of the hours committed during the course of the year*

Q: How long is the commitment?

*A: The goal of the organization is to create the next generation of leaders and philanthropists. Therefore we are hoping that each young member stays with the organization for the duration of their high school years as act as mentors and leaders to the new younger members each year. Over time, we are committed to building a long lasting community of young adults who want to come back to the Foundation to share their experiences as they begin their professional careers.*