



2021 Young Advocates Institute Summer Off Season Cohort FAQs

We are excited that you are considering applying to be a part of this amazing community of young people. Please read the frequently asked questions and application instructions carefully so that you don't miss any important information.

Who is the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault?

The North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCCASA) is a nonprofit organization that serves as the sole statewide expertise and alliance working to end sexual assault and human trafficking through education, advocacy, and legislation. NCCASA provides prevention education, intervention resources, and public policy to end all forms of sexual assault. Our dedicated staff works with over 80 rape crisis centers across the state in addition to the military, law enforcement, college campuses, attorneys, and allied professions to create a coordinated response to sexual assault.

What is the Young Advocates Institute?

Launched in 2012, the Young Advocates Institute is a social justice summer learning initiative that empowers and trains 200 youth, ages 13-17, from across North Carolina during a weekend of prevention/intervention education, advocacy, and leadership development seminars. Hosted at one of North Carolina's ten (10) Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the Institute features national speakers, peer to peer education, campus tours, and team building activities

What is the purpose of the Young Advocates Institute?

The purpose of the Young Advocates Institute is to give youth a voice, the opportunity to share their experiences regarding social justice issues, and to help them become an integral part of the solutions. Not only do the young people from across North Carolina who represent our state's rich diversity have access to learning about violence prevention, healthy behaviors, and leadership, but they also build relationships with peers and carve out their niche in creating safer communities.

Explain the idea behind the 2021 Young Advocates Institute's Summer Off Season Cohort.

This year is the 10-year anniversary of the Young Advocates Institute. For the past decade, the Young Advocates Institute has been a rigorous training ground for over 1,800 youth across North Carolina. Merging the prevention/intervention of sexual and dating violence + social justice + education + advocacy + love + hip hop and popular culture lens + intergenerational approach, the Young Advocates Institute is a soulful and liberating experience.

Since inception, hip hop icon J. Cole has been an imaginary partner and guide to Young Advocates Institute. Cole's music and lyrics have been featured on over half of the institute's agendas to date.

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Still grappling from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Young Advocates Institute made the tough decision not to host its traditional offering of 200 youth on a college campus. Like the title J. Cole's current album, the Young Advocates Institute is in yet another *Offseason*. This year we will combine the virtual aspects from 2020 + a cohort framework + a community service project + two (2) day meeting + an end of year conference call = 2021 Young Advocates Institute Summer Off Season Cohort.

What is cohort?

A cohort is a group of students who share similar interests who go through an educational experience together. In a cohort, there is an expectation of richness to the learning process due to the multiple perspectives offered by the students.

The 2021 Young Advocates Institute Summer Off-Season Cohort's goal is for a group of like-minded youth to learn the same content together and achieve outcomes of becoming and thriving as Young Advocates in their schools and communities.

What are the benefits of a cohort?

Cohort programs were developed in response to some basic facts about human nature and learning—i.e., people learn better in groups. Thus, the underlying benefit of a cohort program is the fact that people learn better as they study as part of a group—a cohort. Cohort programs provide an active, interactive, and dynamic setting for students to grow their knowledge and skills.

The intent of the 2021 Young Advocates Institute Summer Off Season Cohort is to build community, foster creativity, develop leadership skills, and encourage greater progress.

What is a hybrid event/offering?

A hybrid event is any event/offering (e.g., training workshop, conference,) that combines both in-person and virtual (online digital) elements.

For the 2021 Young Advocates Institute Summer Off Season Cohort, youth will participate in five (5) virtual learning sessions, a community service project and a two (2) day meeting in Raleigh/Durham, North Carolina.

How many young people will you accept for the cohort?

Twenty (20) youth, ages 13-17, will be selected to participate in the 2021 Young Advocates Institute Summer Off Season Cohort.



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Who should apply to be a part of the cohort?

Youth ages, 13-17, who have a commitment to social justice, advocacy, creativity, and learning. No prior experience required.

What is the preview application?

The preview application is an opportunity for parents and prospective applicants to review all the application materials and questions before applying to participate.

Where do I apply to be a part of the 2021 Young Advocates Institute Summer Off Season Cohort?

You must apply for the 2021 Young Advocates Institute Summer Off Season Cohort via the online application at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021YAICohort>

When is the deadline to apply?

The deadline to apply for the 2021 Young Advocates Institute Summer Off Season Cohort is 5pm on Friday, July 23, 2021.

When will selected cohort participants be notified?

Selected members of the 2021 Young Advocates Institute Summer Off Season Cohort will be notified by Friday, July 30, 2021.

Is there a cost to participate?

There is no cost to participate in the 2021 Young Advocates Institute Summer Off Season Cohort.

What is the time commitment needed to participate?

Youth are required to participate during the following dates and times:

- Virtual sessions-August 9-13, 2021, 6:00pm-7:30pm
- Community Service Project- August 14, 2021
- In person/Overnight Meeting- August 16-18, 2021
- Conference Call-December 18, 2021

What are some of the activities and workshops/conversations to be featured during the 2021 Young Advocates Institute Summer Off Season Cohort?

All the content, activities and conversations will be a lyric, song title or statement by or relating to J. Cole. Tentative topics include:

- Love Yours (self-love and appreciation/ art activity)
- For Whom the Bell Tolls (mental health and wellness)
- Kevin's Heart (apology and accountability)
- Passcode (relationships, boundaries, and respect)
- Be Free (storytelling, video and pod cast creation)

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What safety measures will be in place during in-person sessions to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19 or other illnesses?

NCCASA will follow the guidance as set forth by the NC Department of Health and Human Services' Interim Guidance for Overnight Camp Setting (June 1, 2021)

<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/media/28/open>. Highlights from the guidance:

- Cohort members and staff who are not fully vaccinated are required to provide proof of a negative viral test taken no more than 1–3 days before August 14, 2021. The listing of no cost testing sites available at <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/about-covid-19/testing/find-my-testing-place/no-cost-community-testing-events>
- Cohort members and staff who are fully vaccinated are required to provide a copy of vaccination no more than 1-3 days before August 14, 2021. The listing of vaccination sites is available at <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines>
- Parents/guardians of the selected cohort members will have to complete a pre-cohort health screening documenting temperatures and symptoms beginning on August 1, 2021.
- Daily temperature checks for all in-person and overnight meetings
- Cohort members will have flexibility regarding lodging options (single or with roommate) based on comfort levels.
- NCCASA will provide supplies including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for staff and cohort members who can safely use hand sanitizer), paper towels, tissues, disinfectant wipes, cloth face coverings (as feasible), and no-touch/foot pedal trash cans.

Who can I contact for additional information and questions?

Feel free to contact Tracy D. Wright from the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault at (919) 871-1015 or tracy@nccasa.org