

At Center Youth,
we believe that
young people
have the potential
to be strong,
confident and
effective leaders
in the LGBTQ
community
and beyond!



About The Center

Established in 1983, New York City's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center empowers people to lead healthy, successful lives. The Center celebrates diversity and advocates for justice and opportunity.

THE CENTER

THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL &
TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY CENTER

 gaycenter.org  212.620.7310

 208 W 13 St, New York, NY 10011

Illustration by @cutedirtydog

FIND YOUR SPACE



LGBTQ Youth
Programs at The Center

Center Youth is open to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning and allied young people between the ages of 13 and 21. Everything at Center Youth is free and confidential! Activities take place at The Center, with incentives, meals and MetroCards provided unless otherwise specified. Regular drop-in groups are also available to all Center Youth participants; please inquire for the monthly schedule.

PAID INTERNSHIPS

Clubhouse Advisory Board Peer Coaching

In this role a select group of young adults serve as role models and leaders of The Center's Youth Clubhouse. Peer Coaches work to enhance the wellness of our community by raising awareness of substance use issues and providing peer assistance and education. Peer Coaches also provide one-on-one support and organize and lead fun and meaningful groups, field trips and events.

LEAP (Leadership, Education, Advancement and Placement)

Offered through a partnership with the Ali Forney Center, LEAP is a program aimed at increasing access to college and careers for homeless and unstably-housed LGBTQ young adults. Participants get individualized case management, counseling support and lots of incentives to continue with education or get a full time job!

Peer Education

Community of Inclusion Peer Educators are trained to facilitate Center Youth's weekly Discussion Group and to welcome new people to the program while building safe, inclusive spaces. Training topics include sexuality and gender identity, identity and oppression, substance use, talking about sex and conflict resolution.

READY (Responsible, Efficient, Assertive, Determined, Youth)

Are you an LGBTQ young person looking to learn about career options, build work skills and get support

with the college selection process? In READY, participants create a professional resume, develop a school/work portfolio, improve letter writing and interviewing skills, networking strategies and learn how to "dress for success." Center Youth staff work with participants to find placement in a paid community internship to gain real life experience!

ROAR (Responsibility, Opportunity, Action and Results)

Bring your passion for social justice to learn about power, privilege, identity and oppression through hands-on activities, group discussions, films and more. Gain skills such as workshop facilitation, organizing and outreach around issues that are important to your community. The internship culminates with a youth-led, community-wide event at The Center on the chosen social justice topic.

Summer Camp Family Group Leaders (FGLs)

Family Group Leaders are trained in topics including conflict resolution, group facilitation, stress management and identity and oppression to provide peer support during the summer camp process. In selecting FGLs, Center Youth staff generally look for youth who have been campers before, and/or who have already participated in a Center Youth Peer Education program. Camp takes place at the YMCA campgrounds at Fairview Lake, NJ in August.

YASS (Youth Advocates for Safer Sex)

YASS is an internship to learn about inclusive safe sex practices, the history of HIV and how to prevent it and then practice how to share this information with peers. Graduates will be confident in their knowledge of how HIV/STIs are transmitted and how to facilitate a workshop in schools or community settings while discussing condom use, PrEP and PEP and consent.

COUNSELING

Prevention Counseling

Prevention Counseling provides support for young adults dealing with depression, anxiety, family conflict, academic stress and issues around coming out and exploring your identity. This counseling is a problem-solving, individual short-term service designed to prevent or reduce the risk of substance use and the negative consequences of related behaviors.

CLOSED GROUPS WITH INCENTIVES

Peers and Perspectives

In Peers and Perspectives, youth use social and emotional skills to build confidence in their own decision making power. Participants develop skills related to goal setting, conflict resolution, communication and social and emotional competency.

Personal Empowerment

This group provides a chance to make new friends while building on individual strengths. Learn to resist peer pressure, build self-esteem and confidence and develop coping skills for anxiety. Topics covered include social skills, relationships, health, fitness and emotional development.

Proud & Empowered

Make new friends while exploring the process of coming out, disclosure and related decision making. We will help participants learn coping skills to manage life and school stress, how to navigate relationships with family and peers, explore spirituality/religion and develop empowerment and advocacy skills.

The Center Youth Mentoring Program

The Center Youth Mentoring Program connects young people 13+ and/or in high school with positive examples of LGBTQ professionals in our community. Adult mentors and youth mentees participate in on-site mentoring, trust-building activities and field trips intended to help foster growth and build community.

Turning Up Safely

Stress from family, school and peers can create difficulty in making choices that promote healthy decisions. Join this group to reflect on which strategies have been successful and evaluate a path forward that emphasizes the spirit of "turning up" as fun that doesn't involve substance use.



For more information about LGBTQ youth Programs at The Center, please email youth@gaycenter.org or visit gaycenter.org/youth.