



**Youth & Opportunity United (Y.O.U.)** is a youth development agency that provides services and leadership to meet the emerging needs of young people and their families in Evanston and Skokie. There are two important ways that volunteers can get involved:

### **Out-Of-School Time (OST) Program Volunteers**

Y.O.U. offers after-school and summer programs that serve more than 1,600 young people each year. Our programs are offered daily at eleven sites across the community: five elementary schools, five middle schools, and one high school. Our Out-Of-School time programs have three parts: academic enrichment, social development, and emotional support. All of our programs have individual tutoring available to help youth build their academic skills, as well as fun, experiential learning activities such as field trips, STEAM workshops, and community engagement projects. Volunteers are invited to assist during homework time, enrichment activities, or the entirety of OST program.

### **Makerspace Volunteers**

Y.O.U. is currently seeking enthusiastic volunteers to lead experiential programming in the Makerspace. This new program is dedicated to immersing its participants in self-directed exploration by utilizing community partnerships and trained staff to support youth. We encourage students to find what interests them and help them to bring their ideas into fruition. In addition, the Makerspace provokes the expansive applications and cross-sectionality between life and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). The Makerspace is equipped to serve many purposes and host a diverse range of projects. Volunteers with expertise in STEAM topics are invited to share their interests with Y.O.U. youth. Volunteer-led workshops aim to not only introduce youth to new possibilities, but encourage them to use Makerspace programming as a springboard to continue to develop their own unique projects.

### **All Out-of-School Time or Makerspace Volunteers Must:**

- Share a passion for Y.O.U.'s mission and helping youth succeed
- Possess open, nonjudgmental attitudes
- Demonstrate good communication and leadership skills
- Be at least 16 years of age
- Aim to commit to at least 1 hour per week for a minimum of one academic semester
- Have a proven record of dependability
- Be willing to undergo a background check and other requirements
- Attend at least one orientation prior to working with Y.O.U. youth for the first time

**For more information on OST Programming, contact  
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**For more information on Makerspace Programming, contact  
Chris Essex at [cessex@youthopportunity.org](mailto:cessex@youthopportunity.org)**