

YOUTH COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE PROGRAM



Using food and farming as vehicles for personal growth and social change, Youth Community Agriculture Program's (YCAP) primary goal is to cultivate extraordinary young leaders empowered with the skills to lead healthy and productive lives and transform their food system and communities.

Operating since 2012, the program positions young people to take an active role in their food system and communities, and advance health and equity while engaging in meaningful work and earning much-needed income. Participants (16-19 years) are engaged as YCAP Community Food Leaders through an intensive summer employment track (30 hours per week for 7 weeks) and an academic-year employment track (12-15 hours per week during the school year).

YCAP Community Food Leaders are key drivers of FLP's urban agriculture operation and food distribution efforts. They spend part of their time planting, cultivating, harvesting, and marketing fresh vegetables, creating recipes, and exploring their local food system. They distribute produce through local farmers' markets, food pantries, schools and community organizations, support FLP Field to Fork Programs for younger students and neighbors, prepare community meals, presentations and social media "take-overs," and support community engagement efforts.

YCAP enables youth to use participatory research methods like PhotoVoice to examine their local food system and communities, and to engage as healthy food access advocates and community food system ambassadors. The Food Literacy Project is committed to youth and community leadership - we view young people as community assets and capable contributors, and strive to position them as drivers of community transformation and systems change.