

Teen Education

New York Cares' Teen Education programs mobilize hundreds of volunteers to provide individual attention, academic assistance, and college preparation for high school students. Our partners for these projects include New York City public schools and community-based organizations.

Homework Help

Tutors provide one-on-one or small-group academic support to teens in grades 8-12 by assisting with homework and standardized test preparation. Projects start in October and January and run for a school semester or full school year.

Sophomore Skills

High school sophomores work in small groups with volunteers to strengthen their basic math, reading and writing skills, resulting in improved scores on Regents and SAT exams. At the end of this project, students will have taken another crucial step in their path towards a college education. Tutoring starts in February and runs through May.

FAFSA Preparation

Volunteers help high school seniors realize their dreams of attending college by helping them secure financial aid. Trained by financial aid experts, our volunteers assist families one-on-one as they complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and supplemental financial aid applications. This program starts in January and runs through February.

Career Exploration and Preparation

Middle school and high school students are introduced to career preparation skills and techniques including resume writing, interviewing, dressing for success and networking during this one to three week program. Volunteers also help students complete self-assessments and learn more about occupations and industries in which they express interest

Speak Up

Volunteers help students in grades 8 and 9 gain confidence in their public speaking skills by introducing them to improvisation, speech and debate, toastmasters, and spoken word poetry. In this ten-week program, students practice these different methods and create original speeches to recite for a class competition.

College Preparation

Volunteers guide high school seniors through the college application process and help them prepare successful admission applications. Our volunteers meet with eager high school seniors to narrow down college choices, complete applications, craft personal statements, secure letters of recommendation and successfully transition into college life. Projects meet weekly, monthly or as one-time workshops beginning in September and run through January.



College Essay Writing

Volunteers help rising high school seniors brainstorm, draft, and polish college essays to strengthen their college applications. By providing guidance and support, volunteers empower students to move one step closer to achieving their college aspirations as they develop unique personal statements. Projects run in the summer and early fall.

SAT Preparation

High School juniors take part in a seven-month evening or weekend SAT course to strengthen their test-taking skills and increase their chances of getting into the college of their choice. With the help of dedicated volunteer tutors, last year's students increased their average score by more than 200 points. Every tutor receives five hours of comprehensive training to effectively tutor small groups of two to five students for the duration of the school year. Training begins in August and tutoring starts in October.

Financial Literacy

Volunteers help teens increase their financial awareness before they embark on life after high school. Participants explore effective strategies to make ends meet, such as opening a bank account, creating a budget, paying for college, and avoiding predatory lending practices.

College Decision and Financial Aid Workshop

Trained volunteers work with high school seniors during this one-time workshop to interpret financial aid award letters from colleges they have been accepted to. Topics explored include how to analyze and compare financial aid packages, understand grants and scholarships, and how to calculate the costs associated with federal and private loans. This program runs in April.