Fostering Youth Leadership

Stanford University, one of the best known hotspots of high impact innovation, is the perfect setting to stimulate idea development and engage in problem-solving in the globally urgent area of sustainability. This workshop focuses on introducing students to worldviews that address sustainability trends and issues, and seeks to help identify leadership opportunities connecting ideas to successful realization. Using a combination of lectures, discussions, hands-on design work, and site visits, the program provides multidimensional views of the sustainability universe, and will introduce youth to various tools, approaches and distinguished thinkers to enable a path of self-discovery.

Explore Your Creative Universe

The CSDGC Youth Leadership program is based on the premise that in normal learning environments, the objective is to rigidly parallel or even mirror particular knowledge frameworks and as a result, creative thinking is stifled. Our program, set against a sustainability backdrop, simply provides neutral ground and the freedom to explore one’s creative universe - a universe in which ideas are born, shaped and shared, and youth are empowered to discover and channel their passion. We also believe that youth, due to their limited exposure to life’s behavioral boundaries, have extremely creative minds and can contribute in the short term as well as the long term they just need the opportunity and the guidance to develop this skill in stages.

Approximation of Leadership Objectives by Age Stage

PROFESSIONAL
POST-GRADUATE
GRADUATE
UNDERGRADUATE
HIGH SCHOOL
PRE-HIGH SCHOOL

role promotion
role-seeking
propulsion
integration
proof
placement
2019
YOUTH CREATIVITY, INNOVATION & SUSTAINABLE LEADERSHIP
Core Program Activities
CREATIVITY POWERS INNOVATIVE THINKING

PROJECT STUDIO
A team project is the common core of every workshop. Work in teams mentored by instructional staff to develop ideas into deliverable problem-solving products or processes. Leverage a multiphase-structured approach.

IDEA DEVELOPMENT: PROBLEM SOLVING & INNOVATIVE THINKING
Experience an ideation-to-product realization process to address important and significant needs. Practice rapid methods for brainstorming and prototyping. Use fast thinking for idea generation and feature list building.

TEAMWORK & TEAM BUILDING
Engage in team activities. Reflect on how your participation and behavior affect team dynamics and outcomes. Evaluate your ability to function on a team and contribute to team productivity.

SUSTAINABILITY DESIGN THINKING
Develop design concepts that integrate sustainability into product feature sets. Explore how to frame sustainability as a compelling competitive advantage in product differentiation.

LEADERSHIP INTELLIGENCE
Empower yourself by amplifying your emotional intelligence and enhancing your knowledge intelligence. Enable empathy through active listening. Use youth as a competitive advantage. Engage with intrinsic motivation.

YOUR PERSONAL STORY
Leadership rises in the context of a personal story. See how your personal story serves as your source of self-determination and an effective platform to present and network yourself. Reflect on your past, present and future.

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Planning Your Study Tour

Your visit to Stanford University and participation in the CSDGC's YCISL program is intended to be one component of a study tour. Your group's overall learning experience will be complemented by tours and activities arranged by your staff and/or travel consultant.

There are a limited number of YCISL schedule slots available each year, and each visit is initiated by an informal discussion of our mutual interests and objectives. Our views of the general format and focus of the visit will also be exchanged.

If interest continues, a proposal will be prepared by CSDGC based on the earlier discussed scope and parameters. This proposal will include a tentative schedule and budget.

When the proposal is accepted, the exact dates of the visit will be confirmed depending on the slots that remain available. The visiting organization will commit to the minimum headcount, and assign a liaison as primary contact for further organization.

The preparatory responsibilities of this primary contact and/or the visiting organization may include:

- Student screening and selection.
- Arranging travel, transfers and accommodation, including visa,* if needed. This may involve a 3rd party travel agency and/or Stanford Conferences.
- Ensuring adequate insurance coverage. This may include health, travel and/or liability insurance.
- Providing a list of student details to CSDGC.
- Providing signed liability waivers and releases.
- Providing a list of group leaders and/or chaperones to CSDGC.
- Providing arrival and departure flight information to CSDGC.
- Arranging invoice payments to CSDGC per terms of payment.

CSDGC's preparatory responsibilities generally include:

- Schedule program-related field trips, special activities and speakers.
- Arrange transportation for program-related field trips.
- Update itinerary as activities and speakers are confirmed.
- Prepare invitation letters as needed for visa application.*
- Reserve meeting room.
- Provide contact information for Stanford Conferences and/or Stanford Guest House, if needed.
- Provide invoices per terms of payment.
- Prepare and present program certificates.

*NOTE: Students are expected to apply for a B-1 Tourist Visa. Stanford University cannot sponsor an F-1 Student Visa for this program.