



TWIN PORTS YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BECOME
LIFELONG LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS

COMMUNITY SUPPORT IS KEY

The **KIDS PLUS Twin Ports Youth Leadership Academy** would not be possible without volunteer mentors and sponsorship support. All program expenses – more than \$1,600 per student, per year – are underwritten by the Northland Foundation and tax-deductible gifts from the community. Cash and in-kind resources from businesses, service organizations, and individuals are critical to ensure that 45 to 50 students, from all different backgrounds, can experience this program at no charge each year.

Sponsors receive recognition at the training sessions, are invited to participate in the year-end celebration, and are featured in the Northland Foundation's newsletter and annual report. They are also encouraged to recruit adult mentors from their organizations to volunteer with the academy.

Mentors and sponsors play key roles in helping develop a new generation of leaders who will contribute to the vitality of their communities, now and in the future!



**NORTHLAND
FOUNDATION**

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**NORTHLAND
FOUNDATION**

KIDS PLUS
Youth Leadership
Academy

KIDS PLUS is a family of programs created by the Northland Foundation in 1991 to improve the well-being of children and youth in our region. Empowering young people to develop their leadership abilities and connect with their communities are important KIDS PLUS goals.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The **KIDS PLUS Twin Ports Youth Leadership Academy** is a nine-month program that provides a diverse group of ninth grade students and adult mentors with a fun, engaging leadership training. Youth and adults from Duluth, Minnesota, and Superior, Wisconsin, participate in creative team activities, learn from youth development experts, gain more confidence, and organize a volunteer project from start to finish. Since 1998, more than 1,200 young people and 375 adults have been a part of the Youth Leadership Academy.

This program takes a “building block” approach to leadership development, with skill-building on the individual, group, and community levels. Students and mentors join together in a series of interactive workshops, ending with a community service project in the spring that is planned and implemented by the young people.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING SESSIONS:

- Explore personal values and leadership styles
- Sharpen leadership, communication, and team-building abilities

ADULT MENTORS:

- Promote the power of youth-adult partnerships
- Build trust and relationships across the generations

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS:

- Provide young people with opportunities to use their knowledge and skills
- Help community members recognize youth as valuable resources and leaders

TRAINING COMPONENTS:

- Orientation
- Youth Leadership Retreat
- Community Exploration
- Leadership Skills Development
- Leadership and Career Exploration
- Communication and Team-Building
- Community Visioning
- Community Service Project Planning
- Community Service Project Day
- Recognition and Celebration Dinner

