

The National Conference for Community & Justice of Connecticut & Western Massachusetts (NCCJ) is a non-profit human relations organization dedicated to fighting bias, bigotry, and racism. Started in 1927 as the National Conference for Christians and Jews, NCCJ promotes understanding and respect of all diversity including race, religion, and culture through education, advocacy, and conflict resolution.

NCCJ Programs Include:

ANYTOWN Youth Action Coalition (YAC): a group made up of past ANYTOWN participants and alumni. This program is a chance for youth to get together and work toward positive change in their schools and communities. The Youth Action Coalition takes a youth centered approach to social justice.

BRIDGES: a 2-day human relations program held in Connecticut & Western Massachusetts public schools. During BRIDGES a group of 20 diverse students and teachers explore the diversity, feelings, and attitudes we have among people of different races, religions, ethnicities, and cultural backgrounds.

Community ConversationsSM: a community-based program for democratic dialogue on race relations. Since 1998, over 4,000 individuals of diverse backgrounds have participated in these 6 week dialogue sessions designed to increase awareness of racial, ethnic and cultural divides and empower participants to take action to improve race relations.

Workplace Diversity Programs: custom designed organizational development programs facilitated by NCCJ staff. These workshops address a variety of social justice issues and guide participants toward the development of positive workplace environments.

"I recommend ANYTOWN to anyone who is willing to change their life in a positive way."



ANYTOWN

Of Connecticut & Western Massachusetts, Inc.
1095 Day Hill Rd., Suite 100
Windsor, CT 06095

nccj
The National Conference
for Community and Justice

Connecticut/
Western
Massachusetts
ANYTOWN
August 19 - 24
2007

A FIVE DAY SOCIAL
JUSTICE, COMMUNITY
BUILDING AND
LEADERSHIP
EXPERIENCE FOR
HIGH SCHOOL
AGE YOUTH



Sponsored in part by:



What is ANYTOWN?

ANYTOWN is a week long residential program designed to educate, liberate and empower youth participants (Delegates) to become effective, responsible leaders and community builders in our pluralistic society. At ANYTOWN a diverse group of high school students come together to spend 5 days working to understand one another, find common ground, form an interdependent community and make friends for a lifetime.

Through interactive workshops, games and discussion, Delegates at ANYTOWN will be given the chance to grow and learn as individuals, and as part of a community. Delegates will learn about social justice and how it applies to them and the communities where they live. They will also gain communication skills necessary to talk to those who are different from them. At ANYTOWN, Delegates are prepared to be the leaders of tomorrow *and* today.

Why ANYTOWN?

- “Overall, I would say that the experience I had was the biggest life changing event so far.”
- “Throughout the week, I learned how to recognize the many “isms”, including Racism, Sexism and Anti-Semitism.”
- “ANYTOWN was not just about what I learned, but also how I learned.”
- “By the end of the week, ANYTOWN became my ideal community.”
- “ANYTOWN was the most unique and empowering learning experience.”
- “I strongly believe that ANYTOWN is 100% worth the time!”



Where is ANYTOWN held?

NCCJ ANYTOWN will be held at Camp Jewell YMCA's beautiful Hideaway Ranch located in Colebrook, Connecticut. Transportation to Camp Jewell will be provided. For more information on Camp Jewell's facilities check out their website at:

www.ghymca.org/branches/jewell/jwelcome.htm

For more information about ANYTOWN or other NCCJ programs contact:

Kelly Benkert, Youth Program Specialist
National Conference for Community & Justice
Of Connecticut & Western Massachusetts
1095 Day Hill Rd., Suite 100, Windsor, CT 06095
860-683-1039 x 102
kbenkert@nccjctwma.org / www.nccjctwma.org

Who Should Apply?

- Youth age 15 to 18 currently living in Connecticut or Western Massachusetts
- Youth who are interested in exploring their own social identities and biases
- Youth who want to work to create an inclusive and just community
- Youth interested in representing their families, schools, communities and our global society
- Youth interested in developing skills in activism and leadership



Benefits of ANYTOWN?

ANYTOWN Youth Delegates will:

- Learn about social justice and how to make change in their communities
- Have the opportunity to express themselves and share their individual experiences
- Be listened to and more importantly, be *heard*
- Learn to support and care for one another in a honest community
- Sing songs, act silly, remember how to play games and have fun
- Work toward becoming leaders in their diverse communities
- Make **true** friends in a short time

How much Does it Cost?

The cost of ANYTOWN is \$500. There is a \$25.00 registration fee that will be applied to the \$500 tuition. While the full cost of ANYTOWN is \$1,500 per delegate, the NCCJ covers much of the cost through grant funding and other contributions.

Full and partial scholarships are available. All interested teens should apply regardless of financial situation!

