



TEAM Youth Council Permission Form

Your child (or the child for whom you act as guardian) is invited to take part in a TEAM Youth Council comprised of 10-15 high school students. Participation involves attending 12 weekly, 2-hour virtual sessions between April and June 2021 (total commitment of 24 hours). Staff from the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) of Suffolk County and Suffolk County District Attorney's Office will facilitate the group sessions. Sessions involve educational activities and discussions about online safety, healthy relationships, internet-based exploitation, and empowering youth to act against cyberbullying.

If your child participates, they are expected to attend at least 10 of the 12 sessions. There are no costs for participating in the workshop. Youth will receive a \$40 stipend in the form of a gift card for each session they attend. They will also be provided with a tech device(s)/equipment that they can keep if they complete at least 10 of the 12 sessions (caregivers will determine whether the device(s)/equipment belongs to the child themselves, or to the caregiver/family).

Subject matter:

The purpose of the TEAM Youth Council is to strengthen the CAC's response to online exploitation and to inform its community outreach efforts. TEAM Youth Council participants will learn about and discuss the risks and rewards associated with being online. They will also provide consultation and expertise, offer insights about the latest social media trends, and create content that can be shared in trainings and on social media. Their work will be shared with over 1000 youth in Boston Public Schools and other youth organizations that our online safety program reaches annually, along with the 2000 caregivers and youth-serving professionals that the CAC trains each year.

Confidentiality:

Nothing that can identify your child will be shared publicly unless express permission is granted by both your child and you, their caregiver. The things your child says during the sessions will be kept confidential (that is, private) by the workshop facilitators – unless your child makes statements that make the facilitator concerned that the child might be experiencing abuse or neglect, or that your child might hurt themselves or someone else. In this case, the facilitator is obligated by law to report the concern.

Right to Refuse or Withdraw:

Being in the TEAM Youth Council is voluntary. You and your child have the right to refuse to participate. If your child decides to participate and then changes their mind, they can withdraw from the TEAM Youth Council by telling the facilitator. Participation is entirely up to you and your child. While TEAM Youth Council participants are expected and encouraged to participate in all 12 sessions, your child can stop participating in the TEAM Youth Council at any time; no one will force them continue if they do not want to do so. If a participant attends fewer than 10 sessions, they will be required to return any tech device(s)/equipment provided by the CAC, back to the CAC.

Authorization:

- I have read and understood the information about the TEAM Youth Council.
- I understand that being in the TEAM Youth Council is completely voluntary. I give permission for my child to participate.
- I understand that the content and feedback my child shares during sessions may be used on social media, the CAC website, or educational materials to spread awareness about online safety and healthy relationships. Their feedback will be de-identified (I.e., no name, photo, or other identifying information associated with it) so that it is not attributed to any one child, unless express permission is provided by both my child and I, their caregiver.
- I understand that my child will participate in facilitated discussions and create content with other TEAM Youth Council participants.
- I understand that the things my child tells the group is confidential. If a child makes statements that create concern that a child may be experiencing abuse or neglect, or that a child might hurt themselves or someone else, the facilitator is obligated by law to report the concern.
- I understand that my child can stop being in the TEAM Youth Council at any time.
- I understand that any tech device(s)/equipment provided by the CAC is on loan from the CAC until my child completes at least 10 of the 12 sessions. The CAC is not responsible for the device(s)/equipment, nor responsible for how it is used once received by my child/our family.
- I understand that, if my child participates in fewer than 10 TEAM Youth Council sessions, any tech device(s)/equipment provided by the CAC will need to be returned to the CAC. I will help ensure that the device(s)/equipment is not damaged during the duration of TEAM Youth Council project in case it needs to be returned to the CAC.
- Once my child/family receives any tech device(s)/equipment provided by the CAC, my child and I are responsible for its safe keeping. If any tech device(s)/equipment provided by the CAC becomes lost, stolen, or broken, the CAC will unfortunately not be able to provide a replacement.
- I understand that any tech device(s)/equipment provided by the CAC is meant to be used by my child as they participate in the TEAM Youth Council. As caregiver, I will ensure that the device(s) is available to my child, and that my child has access to the device(s)/equipment throughout the duration of the project, as long as the device(s) is used appropriately according to our household rules.

Please indicate your preference for receiving the \$40 stipend

Target Gifts OR Amazon eGift Cards emailed to email address: _____

Youth's Name _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Email _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____