

# History Makers Scholars Program



The History Makers Scholars Program, created in collaboration between Fordham University and BronxWorks (formerly the Citizens Advice Bureau), works to support local high school students, challenge them to strive for academic excellence, and make obtaining a college degree a reality. We focus simultaneously on increasing educational access and exploring this access as a critical component of social justice. The program takes the form of an intensive five-week summer academic course and a year-round series of academic programming.

The History Makers Scholars Program exposes participating youth to history beyond the textbook by engaging in learning experiences outside of the classroom through hands-on research and field work throughout NYC. The five-week summer program assists the scholars to develop critical thinking skills and the ability to research, document, and present their findings in a medium that suits their skills and interests. In addition, the History Makers Scholars Program exposes students to the many aspects of college life. The program includes classroom academics, field work excursions, team research projects, dorm life, liberal arts college orientation, and recreational and social activities with college mentors, faculty, and administrators.

## College Mentor Job Description

### Responsibilities

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- Serve as a mentor and role model to high school student participants
- Introduce students to college life
- Work with Program Director and Faculty Directors to implement program curriculum
- Facilitate small group research projects, discussions of readings, and other academic content of the program
- Accompany participants on fieldwork excursions
- Live with participants during week-long stay in a Fordham Residence Hall
- Support the development of each student's critical reading, writing, research, and presentation skills
- Maintain high expectations for youth participants and hold students accountable for meeting high standards
- Contribute towards post-program evaluation
- Attend and participate in weekly staff meetings

### Qualifications

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- Experience working with youth from diverse backgrounds, particularly youth from the Bronx
- A strong desire to work with adolescents in an academic setting
- Experience conducting research from a historical lens
- A high level of energy, flexibility, and problem solving skills
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Ability to work in a team environment

### Compensation

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- Free on-campus housing from June 23 to August 2, 2013
- \$2,000 stipend (1/2 at midway point, 1/2 at conclusion of program)
- Unlimited Metrocard for the month of July

## Schedule & Hours

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The program will run from June 24<sup>th</sup> through August 1<sup>st</sup>.

College Mentors must commit to the program for the following dates:

- June 24-28                      Staff Training
- July 1-3                         Scholar Orientation
- July 8-11, 15-18, 22-25      Academic Weeks
- July 29-August 1                Scholars on Campus\*\*

On most days, the program will run from 9am to 4:30pm. Special events might cause some days to start or end later than this. College Mentors will be given complete program schedules prior to staff training.

**\*\*The last week of the program will require 24 hour “on call” status while living with the scholars in a Fordham Residence Hall.**

## **Application & Interviews**

- **Email a resume and answers to the questions below to [mstrom@fordham.edu](mailto:mstrom@fordham.edu) by 5:00pm on Monday, March 18.** You will get a confirmation email once your complete application has been received.
- Interviews with selected candidates will take place on March 25 and 27, and final decisions will be made by Wednesday, April 3.
- Because History Makers is a social justice program that works almost entirely with youth of color, it is important that our staff respect and reflect the marginalized identities that must be at the forefront of social change. For this reason, we strongly encourage people of color, LGBTQ people, working class people, and members of other historically oppressed communities to apply.

## Basic Information

1. Please provide the following information:

- name
- Fordham ID Number
- local address
- local phone
- cell phone
- email address
- preferred gender pronouns (the pronouns you’d like used to refer to you, e.g. she/her, he/him, they/them, ze/hir, etc.)

2. To get a sense of the identities and experiences applicants will bring to the position, we provide the optional space to describe the following aspects of your identity:

- race/ethnicity
- gender identity (woman, man, genderqueer, gender non-conforming, etc.)
- sexual orientation
- class background (working class, middle class, etc.)

Are there any other aspects of your identity that you think are important for us to be aware of as we consider you for the College Mentor position (ability status, immigration experience, or Bronx/NYC residency might be examples)?

## Detailed Questions

1. Please state briefly why you want to be a College Mentor.
2. Why do you think history is important? How would you communicate its importance to high school students interested in going to college?
3. Describe some of your experiences working with young people. What did you learn from these experiences? What are some challenges you have had, and how did you deal with them?
4. What qualities do you have that would make you a good College Mentor?
5. Describe your expectations of the youth with whom you will work in the program.
6. Why do you think college access programs are important? What role does access to education play in struggles for social justice?