

Invitation: Seeking youth-serving organizations to collaborate for Metropolitan Council “Youth & Parks” research project.

This research project invites up to five youth-serving organizations to work with a research team of Metropolitan Council Staff, high school students and university age students. The purpose of the research to generate data about how youth age 15-19 think about and enjoy nature in the Regional Parks System. Please read the entire document before completing the application of interest to make sure this project is a good fit with your organization.

Time commitments and timeline: Two meetings before October 1, one half-day in-park experience between late September and early November, two post-park meetings, attend final presentation. Exact dates to be agreed on. Project time scope September 2019 – May 2020.

Compensation for participating organizations from the Metropolitan Council: \$4,000

To pursue this opportunity:

1. Complete attached application of interest (page 2-3) and send to [staff email] . Deadline: *September 6, 2019*
2. If your organization is selected, schedule a one-on-one 90- minute meeting at a location convenient to you with Met Council employee [staff name] to determine fit between project and collaborator. Deadline: *September 20, 2019*
3. Organize youth and guardians/parents from your organization to participate in a regional park for a fun half day activity that will happen between September 20 and November 10, 2019.
4. Bring attendees from your organization to a youth-led presentation in winter or spring 2020. The presentation will be held a location convenient to you.

Invitation: Youth-serving organizations are invited to bring a group of up to twenty high school age youth and their guardians/parents for a fun half day activity in a regional park in which youth ideas and experiences will inform the future of the Regional Park System. The event will be held on time arranged between late September and early November at a Regional Park. To participate and receive compensation, the organization must have at least ten youth and five parent/guardians attend the half day event. Up to twenty youth and twenty guardians/parents could participate.

What the organization will get: A fun experience for high school youth; a chance to influence priorities and programming in the Regional Park System; \$4000 for the community organization; Gift cards for youth and parent/guardians who attend the event.

Application is on pages 2-3. Complete details of the project are on pages 4-7.

Criteria for choosing the five organizations in order of priority:

- Capacity to successfully recruit youth and guardian participants and complete the project requirements
- Commitment to the outcomes/values of the research project
- Contribution to geographic and social diversity of the project as a whole
- Staff and leadership have deep ties to the community served by the organization
- Previous experience with youth participant action research

Please complete the following application of interest and return to [staff email].

Name of organization: .

Address of organization:

Website of organization (if applicable): .

Contact person: .

Contact person phone:

Contact person email: .

What is your organization’s mission?

How many youth does your organization serve from the following groups? (Note – one group is fine! Youth who fit more than one of these descriptors is fine!)

	African American youth
	American Indian, indigenous, and/or Native American youth
	Rural youth
	Youth active in groups related to #diversifyoutdoors
	Youth from families living in low income or poverty
	Youth from New American, Asian and/or African diasporic communities (for example, Hmong, Karen, Latinx/Hispanic, Somali)
	Youth from other communities of color not listed here who are underserved by the Regional Park System
	Youth with physical or cognitive disabilities
	Youth with extensive outdoor experience

If needed, please comment:

Can you complete the following requirements? Can someone in the organization ca discuss these answers in a one-on-one meeting in English or another language used in your organization’s daily work? Please check yes if your organization has:

Yes	Topics:
	Ability to recruit between ten and 20 participants ages 14-19 to attend half day in-park experience (required)
	Ability to recruit at least five guardians/parents to participate in a focus group (required)
	Ability to have 20 people listen to a youth-led presentation of research findings (20 people, required)
	Willingness to provide input on the research project with the research team (required)
	A process to ensure youth safety and has completed or will complete background checks for adult collaborators besides guardians/parents (required)
	Commitment to building capacity for youth in civic engagement, research, and outdoor activities (required)
	An interest in the values of the research project and purpose (required)
	Willingness to spread the word about the research project (required)
	Previous experience with qualitative, arts-based, and/or participant action research (desired)
	Commitment to creating future opportunities for youth in your program to visit the regional parks (desired)

Submit completed application via email to [staff member], [staff job title] ([staff email]).

Questions? Contact [staff member]: via email or mobile phone (staff number).