

What is The Men of Honor Program?

The Young Men of Honor Program is a strengths-based group approach to promote boys' and young men's safe and healthy passage through pre-teen and adolescent years.

It engages boys in activities, dialogue, and self-expression to question stereotypical concepts and to increase boys' emotional, social, and cultural literacy by promoting valuable relationships with peers and adult facilitators.

In a safe and action-oriented context, boys can identify the positive and not-so-positive definitions about being male today. They are invited to define the "male box" that shapes and constricts their growth. The Young Men of Honor Program lets boys examine the messages that define being male, and gives boys new and different options for self-expression and team experiences, promoting skill building and safe, healthy, positive, and diverse identities.



Crossroads Programs has collaborated with the Camden County Family Support Organization in order to offer the TYMH Program Thurs & Fri afternoons at the FSO offices: Camden County Family Support Organization Office; 23 West Park Avenue, Suite 108, in Merchantville, NJ 08109. Please call Crossroads Programs at (609) 880-0210 for more information.

*Second Camden County location coming soon



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The Young Men of Honor Program



Empowering youth who are homeless, abandoned, abused or at-risk to lead healthy, productive lives.



Who Can Participate?

To participate, males ages nine to eighteen who reside in Camden County, New Jersey need only have the interest. Participants must make a commitment to attend the meetings, twice a week for ten weeks. In addition, participants must agree to follow the program agreements. These agreements are developed by the group itself and typically include: no put-downs or interruptions, offer experiences - not advice; keep the focus on yourself and your experience; and keep what's said in the group confidential. Facilitators explain the legal and ethical limits to confidentiality in order to safeguard the boys' well-being. Boys are free to participate at their own pace. Participants can express a range of ideas and emotions with peers and can expect respect and high regard from one another.

Crossroads Programs is aware that sometimes transportation can be a barrier to youths' ability to participate in extracurricular activities and therefore will be providing transportation as well as a hearty snack for all participants.

Family engagement and support is encouraged throughout the youth's involvement with the TYMH Program, but especially following each ten week cycle when celebrations recognizing youth achievement are scheduled.

Why The Young Men of Honor Program?

Boys need a gender-specific group setting to have a safe, protected, and focused place to address an array of harsh realities and to create healthy options for growing up male today. Findings of recent studies tell us that boys are not faring well in areas of education, mental health, health care access, bullying, violence, or substance abuse in this new millenia.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics report on School Crime and Safety, 46% of males, reported they had been in physical fights.

Bullying was reported as more prevalent among males and occurred with greater frequency among middle school-aged youth than high school-aged youth in sixth through eighth grade. Males were both more likely to bully others and more likely to be victims of bullying than were females. In addition, males were more likely to say they had been bullied physically (being hit, slapped, or pushed).

A 2005 Brief on Young Adult Males from the National Adolescent Health Information Center tells us:

Adolescent males are almost three times as likely as same age females to have ADHD, and more likely to have a learning disability.

Males are three to seven times more likely than females to be in juvenile justice residential placement.

Older teen males report higher levels of substance abuse, especially binge drinking, than their female peers.

Males ages 10 - 24 are over five times more likely to die of homicide than same-age females.

Males ages 12 - 24 have the highest victimization rates for violence, robbery and assault.

More males than females ages 10 - 24 report outpatient visits for mental health disorders.

Program Components & Goals

- reducing competition, bullying and aggression
- focus on school attendance and engagement
- valuing diversity
- safe expression of emotions
- valuing diversity and respecting differences
- defining power from multiple perspectives
- influences of mentors and role models
- rejecting violence
- becoming allies with girls and women
- making safe and healthy decisions for themselves
- finding and living with value in difficult times

