



(Grades 9-12)

PeaceJam Ambassadors explores the complex issues facing youth today, including violence, intolerance, privilege and power, social justice and what it takes to be a leader and peacemaker.

The PeaceJam Ambassadors curriculum is flexible and experiential, and includes multiple components – reading, group discussions, role plays, artistic activities and journaling. It can be integrated into an existing classroom curriculum, run as an elective or independent study program, or offered in after-school clubs, community- and faith-based youth groups.

The first part of the curriculum explores topics such as violence – how their lives are touched by it, root causes, how the media portrays it; intolerance, and their own biases and blind spots; privilege and power; and what it takes to be a peacemaker.

The second part focuses on the life and work of one of the PeaceJam Nobel Laureates, the social, political and economic situation that they faced when they took their stand for peace, and the non-violent strategies they used to resolve the conflict.

Service-learning is an integral part of the PeaceJam Ambassadors program. Each group creates a service project that addresses a key issue from the PeaceJam *Global Call to Action*, which is a 10-year campaign to address the major problems facing the world, including racism and hate, environmental degradation, the spread of global disease, extreme poverty, arms proliferation, and human rights abuses. Youth first select an issue area that interests them. They then create an assessment tool or survey to determine specific problems that need to be addressed, research existing efforts in that area, and choose a *Global Call to Action* project that may be local, national or international in scope. They then design their project to address the need, and develop criteria for success. In addition, they set and measure personal and group learning goals.

Midway through the year, PeaceJam Ambassadors participants have the opportunity to attend the two-day PeaceJam Northeast Youth Conference with the Nobel Laureate that they have been learning about. During the weekend, they interact extensively with the Laureate, college student mentors, and their peers from other programs in the region. They attend workshops that build personal and group skills, and present their plans for their *Global Call to Action* projects to the Laureate and their peers.

Past participants have described their experience at the conference as: *“An awesome experience that opened my eyes to the world. It showed me that kids like me really want to and can make a difference”... “PeaceJam is AMAZING. Great people, inspiration and ideas that will motivate you to make the world a better place”... “PeaceJam should be a mandatory experience in high school. It is truly rewarding and life-changing.”*

After the Youth Conference, they continue to work on implementing their *Global Call to Action* project. Six months later, they gather again at a one-day PeaceJam Slam to continue their development as leaders and peacemakers, reconnect with PeaceJammers from the region, and share their progress and learning from their *Global Call to Action* projects. Inspired by master peacemakers and their peers, PeaceJam Ambassador participants become creative leaders who are committed to solving the most difficult challenges facing our world.

Curriculum Overview

Topics in **Chapter 1: Exploring Violence** include:

- Violence and our own lives
- What is violence and where does it occur?
- Root causes of violence
- Media images of violence
- What motivates people to choose their actions

Topics in **Chapter 2: Exploring Identity, Difference, and Oppression** include:

- Personal and cultural identity
- Bias, prejudice, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression
- Privilege and power
- Exploring inclusion and exclusion
- Understanding systemic oppression

Topics in **Chapter 3: Exploring Peace and Nonviolence** include:

- Expressing our concepts of peace
- Developing criteria for a peacemaker
- Exploring the background of the Nobel Peace Prize
- Past Nobel Peace Prize winners
- Nonviolence, and Martin Luther King's Six Principles

Topics in **Chapter 4: The Global Call to Action** include:

- Analyzing the issues of the Global Call to Action
- Conducting a needs assessment and determining an issue to address
- Exploring root causes and possible solutions
- Creating an implementation plan, including service and learning goals, and success evaluation criteria

Topics in **Chapter 5: The Struggle for Peace** include:

- Exploring background information and history of the Nobel Laureate's country
- The social, cultural, economic, and political conditions that lead to the conflict, and that exist today in that country or region

Topics in **Chapter 6: A Nobel Laureate to Study** include:

- Exploring a biography of the Laureate being studied, including their Nobel acceptance speech and Nobel lecture
- Viewing an in-depth video interview with the Laureate, and learning the views of the Laureate on key issues
- Reading the Laureate's Nobel acceptance speech, Nobel lecture, and other source documents

Topics in **Chapter 7: Strategies For Peace** include:

- Nonviolent strategies used by the Laureate
- Exploring theory and rationale that forms the foundation for peace strategies
- Learning skills of nonviolence



NextGen Leaders Inc., a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, is the Northeast affiliate of the PeaceJam Foundation, which was nominated for the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize.

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