



(Grades 6-8)

PeaceJam Leaders guides youth through a process of exploring their identities and re-examining the choices they make, including their role models, their peers, and their role in the broader community and the world.

PeaceJam Leaders is designed to meet the unique developmental and social needs of adolescent youth. At this critical stage of their lives, youth struggle with a sense of identity, an obsession with self, poor self-esteem, influence of peer groups, and feelings of awkwardness. They are developing their values, choosing their role models, and creating a new sense of self.

This standards-based curriculum guides youth through a process of exploring their identities and re-examining the choices they make, including their role models and peer groups, and their role in the broader community and world, while developing leadership and problem-solving skills as they engage in service-learning projects.

- **Me = Individuality:** *Who I am?* Understanding my skills, abilities, and areas for improvement. Using my personal power in positive ways.
- **We = Belonging:** *Where do I belong?* Understanding the groups I belong to and the people who are important in my life. Using my skills and abilities to communicate, work, and problem-solve with others.
- **My World = Giving:** *How will I contribute?* Applying my leadership skills and abilities to make positive change in my community, my nation, and the world.

PeaceJam Leaders develops the resources that adolescents need to make the healthy transition to adulthood, including:

- **Commitment to learning:** A lifelong commitment to education and learning.
- **Positive values:** Strong positive values that guide their choices such as caring, equality and social justice, and responsibility.
- **Social competencies:** Skills and competencies such as peaceful conflict resolution, ability to resist pressure, cultural understanding, interpersonal skills (empathy), and decision-making skills in order to make positive choices, to build relationships, and to succeed in life.
- **Positive identity:** A strong sense of their own power, purpose, worth, and promise.

Curriculum Overview

Module	Theme	Leadership Skill	Service-Learning	Curricular Extensions
Nobel Peace Prize	Peace & Violence	Recognizing Peace	Project Selection	Biographies; Research papers; Speeches; Peace; World geography
Rigoberta Menchú Tum	Community	Team Work <i>Learning to work well together</i>	Community Cafés	Autobiographies; Central America; Indigenous peoples; Child labor; Essays on community; Teamwork

Dalai Lama	Communication & Compassion	Listening & Speaking Skills <i>Respect & compassion</i>	Writing Service-Learning Plans	Opinion papers; History of Tibet; Government in exile; Mapping
Adolfo Pérez Esquivel	Identity Shapers	Risky Behaviors <i>Positive & negative influences; Façades; Groups we choose; Role models</i>	Power of Letters	Writing comic strips; Business letters; Analyzing song lyrics; Argentina; Dance & sculpture
Desmond Tutu	Emotions	Handling Anger <i>Identifying emotion triggers; Transforming anger into action</i>	Educating the Community	South Africa; Apartheid; Civil rights movements; Play writing; Acting; Global diseases
Betty Williams & Máiread Corrigan Maguire	Diversity	Overcoming Stereotypes	Exploring Issues from Diverse Perspectives	Writing narratives from two perspectives; Persuasive speeches; History of Europe
Jody Williams	Making a Stand	Taking Action <i>"Emotion without action is irrelevant"</i>	Informed Action	Writing news briefs; Landmines; Arms trade; Treaties in history; Impacts of war on civilians
Shirin Ebadi	Rights	Exploring & Defending Rights	Taking the Human Rights Temperature	Writing court arguments; Iran; Citizens' rights; UN human rights; Judicial systems
José Ramos-Horta	Problem Solving	Conflict Resolution <i>Getting to yes thru no-lose problem-solving</i>	Working with Civic Institutions	United Nations; Role of Foreign Minister; Democracy in the making
Joseph Rotblat	Responsibility	Taking responsibility for your actions <i>It's never too late to change your life</i>	Analyzing Future Impacts	WWII; Holocaust; Nuclear weapons; Role of science
Oscar Arias	Goal Setting	Setting Personal Goals <i>Using your power in positive ways</i>	Re-Evaluating Project Goals	Role of President; Eco-tourism; Constitutions; Central America wars
Aung San Suu Kyi	Overcoming Challenges	Courage <i>Obstacles to your goals and how to overcome them</i>	Global Connections	Burma; Military dictatorships; Refugees; Role of protests in history
ME	My Story	I am... <i>I believe... I care about... I belong to... I will...</i>	Reflection & Celebration	Self-expression; Writing peace plans; Creating life purpose



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.
www.NextGenLeaders.org | info@NextGenLeaders.org | 203.687.4340