

## **NCC's 2024 SUMMER YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

**Your application, references, and essay must be turned in no later than Wednesday, May 1, 2024. This date is firm – NO EXCEPTIONS!**

You may drop off your completed application in person at The Neighborhood Christian Center or by email to [decaturncc1994@gmail.com](mailto:decaturncc1994@gmail.com).

The Neighborhood Christian Center  
619 Bank Street  
Decatur, AL 35601

Open Monday - Wednesday 8am-3pm; Thursday 8am - Noon

**\*\*Please drop your application in the mailbox if the center is closed\*\***

**In order to be considered for the NCC's Summer Youth Leadership Program, you must submit the following:**

- Completed application (any blanks left unfilled will be considered incomplete and the applicant will not be notified). Please take time to complete all entries.
- 2 References – One must be from an influential educator/counselor, and one more of your choosing (excluding family members). Each reference must be typed and submitted with your application.
- One Essay on what it means to have a 'Heart of A Servant.' *You got this!*

Please read the writing prompt below and answer with a one page typed essay. Servant leadership is the theme of this year's program. Having the heart of a servant is pivotal in becoming servant leaders for our community. Please detail your perspectives and experiences as it relates to having the ***"Heart of a Servant."***

### **"Heart of a Servant"**

*Reflect on a time when you willingly sacrificed your own interests or desires to serve others. Describe the situation, what motivated you to take action, and the impact your service had on those around you. How did this experience shape your understanding of servant leadership, and what lessons did you learn about humility, compassion, and selflessness? Finally, consider how you envision embodying the "Heart of a Servant" in your future leadership endeavors and serving as a positive influence in your community.*

***\*\*All applicants will be called for an interview on Saturday, May 4th before the completion of the hiring process. \*\****

Dear Servant Leader:

Enclosed is an application packet for the Neighborhood Christian Center's "Heart of a Servant" Summer Youth Leadership Program. You must be entering into your junior or senior year to participate in this summer program. We have a limited amount of openings to fill, so it is very important that you complete your application in its entirety and turn it in on time. Every participant will have the opportunity to be exposed to a life changing experience, while learning and understanding what it means to be a servant of Christ. As a servant leader in our leadership program, youth leaders will interact in Bible study lessons, present programs to younger children within the community, participate in community service projects, visit colleges and businesses and develop a holistic understanding of what it means to be a servant leader. Our first full work week will begin on **Monday, June 3rd, 2024, with the program concluding Friday, July 19, 2024. Our programming hours will be Monday- Thursday from 8AM-3PM and Friday's from 8AM-12PM. You must attend all days during the term unless first pre-approved by the directors. You cannot be in summer school while participating in this program.** Participants are allowed to have a second job but this in no way can conflict with the schedule of work that our summer program will require. There will be no exceptions. This is a seven week commitment, geared towards serving and must be taken seriously. It is important to be confident in your final decision to participate and that your family understands your commitment and desire to serve others. If you have questions or concerns, please call us at *(256) 351-7633 (NCC-Mon.-Thurs. 8am-3pm)* or email *decaturncc1994@gmail.com*. We look forward to serving with you this summer!

Best,

Dr. DT Shackelford (Co-Executive Director)

Mrs. Jhorden Shackelford (Director of Operations)

## **PARENTAL ENCOURAGEMENT**

If my child is accepted into the program, I agree to have my child at work on time each day and picked up each day, according to the schedule given to me. (*Schedule will be provided upon receipt of acceptance letter*).

I understand that there will be at least three out of state college trips during this 7 week program. Details will be shared at the parent orientation on Saturday, May 11th.

If your child will need transportation, this must be communicated to DT Shackelford or Jhorden Shackelford at the time you return your application.

*\*\*Arranged rides or car pools are encouraged.*

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Parent's Signature

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Date

## **PARENTAL CONSENT**

I/We the parent(s) or guardian(s) of \_\_\_\_\_ have read the NCC Summer Youth Leadership Program packet and agree to the guidelines set by the Neighborhood Christian Centers, Inc.

I/We also agree to participate in the one-hour orientation for my child scheduled for Saturday, May 11th. I understand that my child will not be able to participate if I do not attend. For Scheduling conflicts, please contact DT or Jhorden Shackelford in advance.

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Parent Signature

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Date

## **2024 Summer Youth Program Theme: “Heart of a Servant”**

The NCC’s “Heart of A Servant” Summer Youth Leadership Program (SYLP) is a teen/young adult summer program that allows young people that are interested in community service to work hands-on with those in need, training them to be servant leaders.

Each participant will get an extensive understanding of what the 4 pillars of our summer program are, which will contribute to them becoming a God honoring servant leader.

- **Spiritual Transformation:** Servant leaders will develop and possess a deep understanding of differing perspectives, others needs, and feelings of those they serve. Spiritual Transformation will be vital and a key component in guiding our summer programming. **Romans 12:1-2**
- **Character Development:** Servant leaders are humble individuals who prioritize the greater good over their own egos or self-interests. They recognize their own limitations, acknowledge the contributions of others, and are willing to admit mistakes and learn from feedback. Their humility fosters trust, respect, and collaboration within their teams and communities. **Matthew 23:12**
- **Career Attainment:** Servant leaders are dedicated to the growth and development of others as well as themselves. We will invest time and resources in nurturing the talents, skills, and potential of those under our care, empowering them to reach their full potential. Servant leaders will be aided and assisted in achieving personal and professional growth goals. **Proverbs 18:16**
- **Community Empowerment:** At the core of servant leadership is a genuine desire to serve others and make a positive difference in others lives. Servant leaders exhibit selflessness, generosity, and a servant-hearted attitude in all their interactions and decisions. They derive fulfillment from serving others and derive satisfaction from seeing others succeed and thrive. **Psalms 133:1**

The teens will have various duties including their participation in Neighbors Days at the NCC. Teens will go into the community and host “Mini Vacation Bible Schools” with local programs, which will include providing treats, organized storytelling, arts and crafts, and community service work. The teens will also participate in Bible study classes, business tours, college preparation classes, college visits, and financial training.

It is the aim of the NCC Summer Youth Leadership Program to begin to introduce the younger generation to the many problems that distress our communities and teaching them how to be the change our community needs. Our goal is to ultimately stress the importance of a God centered servant leader.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**AND**  
**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ the program participant understand that I must open a checking and savings account even if I already have one. I understand that I will be paid **\$400 a week** for the seven weeks. I also understand that ***I must reserve 10% of my earnings to a local church or organization that our cohort collectively chooses and 20% a week goes into my savings account.*** Furthermore, I understand that I am to be an example to my peers and the community. I understand that there is to be no cursing or disrespect to those that are in authority. I understand that as a male or female, I am to keep my hands in their proper place. I understand that if I break any of these rules, I will be subject to being suspended or released from the program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**PARENTAL CONSENT TO FIELD TRIPS AND  
AUTHORIZATION TO CONSENT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT**

I, the parent of \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby consent to his or her participation in the Neighborhood Christian Center of Alabama “Heart of a Servant” Summer Youth Leadership Program for seven weeks beginning June 3, 2024 ending July 19, 2024. My child has permission to go on all activities provided by the Neighborhood Christian Center of Alabama in state or out-of-state. They are allowed to be transported by the Neighborhood Christian Center of Alabama vehicles, hired or owned by the Neighborhood Christian Center of Alabama.

As the lawful parent or guardian of the above-named person and having full authority to consent to the furnishing of hospital, medical, surgical, dental, or other care, without limitation to such a person, I do hereby authorize *Dr. DT Shackelford, Director and Jhorden Shackelford, Director of Operations for the Neighborhood Christian Center and other NCC staff*, to consent to the furnishing of hospital and medical, surgical, dental or other care, without limitation, to an above-named person and to sign any authorization, waivers, or releases as may be requested by a medical doctor, hospital, medical clinic, dentist or other person or medical facility in connection with the administering of such treatment and/or services.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ year \_\_\_\_\_.

Parent’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the information below for use in an emergency:

Mother or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Father or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

In case parent or guardian cannot be reached, the following person(s) may be contacted:

Name	Relationship	Phone
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Name	Relationship	Phone
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Doctor’s Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Carrier \_\_\_\_\_ Policy # \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any medications your child is currently taking:

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Additional comments regarding medical history, allergies, penicillin or drug reactions, etc. which may be needed in treatment:

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**APPLICATION FOR NCC SUMMER YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

(Please print or type)

**Section I**

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First MI

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies (Please List 3): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Career Interest (Please List 3): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Section II**

**GRADE LEVEL (as of Fall 2024)**

**Please circle one**

11th 12th

School \_\_\_\_\_

School Activities \_\_\_\_\_



**Section III**

**Recommendations**

Please send two recommendations. Include an influential teacher/counselor and person in which you hold in high regard (family members excluded). List their names below. You can include recommendations typed on your behalf with the completion of this application.

**\*Recommendation must be returned by May 1st, 2024.**

1. **Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Occupation:** \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Occupation:** \_\_\_\_\_

