

ANYTOWN™

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Why would a young person want to go to ANYTOWN™?

First and foremost, ANYTOWN™ is a program designed to give YOU the power to change your school and community. ANYTOWN™ is facilitated by both youth and adults, and is a great way to jumpstart or advance your leadership skills. Secondly, ANYTOWN™ is a fun experience away from all the other stress of life. We play games, hang out in college dorms, enjoy all-you-can-eat-food three times a day, meet new people, and talk about ourselves! Students in Pinellas public schools also receive a half social studies credit for attending. Did we mention it is completely free?

How old do participants have to be to attend ANYTOWN™?

Delegates must be attending high school in fall 2016 (entering 9th – 12th grades) and/or youth must be ages 14-18. Graduating seniors are only accepted on an as-needed basis, but are encouraged to submit a complete application.

Who goes to ANYTOWN™?

All youth in the Tampa Bay area are encouraged to apply. There are no grade, GPA, extracurricular, income, behavioral requirements or exceptions. We intentionally accept a diverse class of 60 students for each session with respect to gender, sex, age, race, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, faith, class and ability.

I live in Pasco/Polk/Hernando/Other counties. Can I still apply?

Preference is given to Pinellas and Hillsborough County residents, due to both contractual funding obligations and our ability to follow up after ANYTOWN™. Additionally, all of our required year-round trainings as part of the Be Intentional Institute after the residential portion of ANYTOWN™ will be located in Pinellas and Hillsborough, and delegates are expected to provide their own transportation. However, a limited number of spaces may be available for specific counties, and additional youth may be able to attend at full cost (\$1160). Please call the office for details.

What is an average day at ANYTOWN™? What do we do?

Every day is different at ANYTOWN™. We spend a lot of our time as a large community, experiencing interactive workshops, activities, icebreakers, teambuilders, and dialogue to cultivate leaders and work towards ending discrimination. We eat three times a day along with snacks. Each afternoon, we meet with a Dialogue Group of 8-10 other delegates and volunteers. We start and conclude our days in the dorms.

ANYTOWN™ is not a “camp”, it is a diversity and leadership education experience. As such, there is no horseback riding, canoeing, kayaking, camp fires, etc. There may be brief times for supervised sports in the morning, and interested delegates should bring appropriate clothing and shoes, but most of our time will be spent indoors.

What do we talk about at ANYTOWN™? By “discrimination”, do you mean racism?

We will dialogue about all kinds of diversity topics, including but not limited to, stereotypes, prejudice, discrimination, racism, sexism, homophobia, mass atrocities and genocide, privilege, interfaith, ableism, leadership, and many more.

When is it? Why are there only two sessions? What if I’m not available during those dates?

ANYTOWN™ is a life-changing opportunity that utilizes a lot of time, people, and resources to facilitate. We are excited to offer two opportunities to attend this summer. If you are unavailable and not graduating next year, please keep us in mind for next summer. With more sponsors, we will be able to offer more sessions of ANYTOWN™. Please let us know if your business or place of employment would like to sponsor a delegate’s experience.

I have another event / I will be on vacation / out of town. Can I arrive to ANYTOWN™ late / leave early? Can I leave for an event in the middle of the week and come back?

Delegates must stay for the full five-days, four-nights of programming. Unfortunately at this time, we cannot accommodate individuals who are unable to commit to the full length of the residential program.

What time is lights out?

Lights out is different every day, depending on when we end our programming. It is usually between 30 minutes – 1 hour after we end our last large group activity for the day.

I'm a picky eater / I have dietary restrictions. Will there be enough food for me to eat?

Eckerd College does a great job providing buffet-style meals with many different options at breakfast, lunch and dinner for even the pickiest of eaters. If you let us know your religious or medical dietary restrictions in advance, we can alert the cafeteria staff. If you have any specific requests, please let us know, so we can prepare accordingly.

I saw that delegates are not allowed to bring cell phones. How will I get in touch with my mom / dad / guardian / child / boyfriend / girlfriend? Why can't I have my phone?

ANYTOWN™ is an opportunity to connect with a new community outside of our existing relationships. Additionally, we are very busy, and have very little “down time”. We make an effort to call your parent/guardian when you arrive at ANYTOWN™ to let them know you arrived safely. In case of an emergency, you would be able to use one of the co-directors'/Community Tampa Bay staff members' phones to contact your family. Should the need arise, your parent/guardian may call the co-director(s)/Community Tampa Bay staff member(s) as well.

Can I choose to be in a dorm or Dialogue Group with my friend/cousin/sister/brother/girlfriend/boyfriend?

We feel confident that you will find ANYTOWN™ to be a welcoming, safe, and exciting new community, regardless of whether you come alone or with people you know. To make sure everyone gets comfortable creating a new ANYTOWN™ community together and to ensure diverse spaces, we do not allow delegates to select their dorm or Dialogue Group members. However, we are together as a large group for long parts of the day, so you will definitely see your friend or relative throughout the week.

Where is it? Do we get to interact with college students?

Community Tampa Bay facilitates ANYTOWN™ on Eckerd College's campus in south St. Petersburg, FL. Although you get to experience college life through the dorms and cafeteria, we will not spend our time interacting with Eckerd students or other groups using the space, so we can keep developing our own ANYTOWN™ community.

Can I get community service hours for going?

Attending ANYTOWN™ as a delegate will not grant you community service hours. However, staying involved in our year-long programming, including participating in our ongoing youth group and potentially volunteering at ANYTOWN™ as a staff member, will afford many opportunities to complete hours and change your community.

Why do you need my social security number?

Due to one of our contracted partners, students enrolled in Pinellas County Schools receive an unweighted half social studies credit upon completing ANYTOWN™. We need your social security number and date of birth to ensure you receive this credit. If you would not like to receive the half credit, please contact your principal or withhold your social security number from the application. All applicants must provide date of birth.

I live close to Eckerd College. Can my parents drop me off?

It is our preference that all delegates ride the provided bus to and from Eckerd College to get the most out of their ANYTOWN™ experience, and minimize supervised time spent waiting for other arrivals. However, if Eckerd College is closer to your home than the other bus stops, let us know, and we can accommodate a limited number of drop-offs.

I would like to donate to Community Tampa Bay to enable other youth to experience ANYTOWN™. How do I do that?

Thank you so much! We would not be able to function without donors like you. The easiest way to make a one-time donation is to submit a payment online at www.communitytampabay.org or send a check or money order to our offices. The most impactful way to support our mission is to become an ongoing giver as part of our Sustainer Society, pledging monthly or annually to maximize your impact. Please let us know if you would like more information 😊