



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Black Achievers Program

MEREDITH MATHEWS EAST MADISON YMCA

Program Overview

The Black Achievers Program offers young people in grades 9-12 a wide range of training, networking and service opportunities to help them explore career options and prepare for college. The program helps youth of all academic abilities and backgrounds to develop leadership skills, planning and decision-making experience and high expectations. Black Achievers is based at the Meredith Mathews East Madison YMCA, with activities there and at Garfield Franklin, Cleveland and Rainier Beach High Schools.

Program Facts

The Black Achievers Program has five focus areas:

Group Mentoring/Life Skills: Youth develop healthy relationships with adults through interaction with positive role models and employment preparation, such as resume writing, interviewing, budgeting and credit management.

College Preparation: Youth and their parents learn how to navigate the college Application process. Participants practice test taking for entrance exams, and college tours offer exposure to admissions and financial aid processes. Seniors may apply for scholarships available through YMCA endowment funds.

Service Learning: Students engage in meaningful service opportunities with neighborhood residents and organizations, helping them work toward the 60 hours of mandatory community service hours required by Seattle Schools for graduation.

Business Tours: Youth visit local companies and develop relationships with adult professionals, strengthening the connection between the community and the business sector. Visits are designed to give students hands-on experience and input in projects such as research experiments and product development.

Social Development: Youth gain experience and the networking and communications skills necessary for setting and achieving career goals.

History & Impact

Over the past 20 years, the Black Achievers Program has engaged more than 4,000 local youth. Beginning in 2009, the program awarded several scholarships totaling more than \$30,000 to participants in need of financial support to achieve their dreams. Over the past 20 years, more than 400 volunteers and mentors have served as teachers and mentors to Black Achievers.

Website: www.seattleyymca.org

Program Contact: Shomari Jones, Senior Program Director, 206-344-3181 or sjones@seattleyymca.org