



Background on Program

The Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) is a year-long program that teaches middle and high school students how to start and run their own REAL businesses. YEA! was developed at the University of Rochester in 2004 with the support of a grant from the Kauffman Foundation. The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to be the trailblazer in having brought YEA! to Oregon and the Beaverton Community. We are pleased to announce that we are starting our third year October, 2015. Our partners are Portland Community College and the Beaverton School District.

YEA! guides middle and high school students through the process of starting and running a legitimate **REAL** business or social movement over the course of a full academic year.

The YEA! program in Beaverton, Oregon is offered as an after-school program at the Beaverton High School. The site is staffed by instructors and site program manager, and supported by a site support specialist through the YEA! headquarters in Rochester, NY.

Over the course of the program, students:

Brainstorm business ideas

- Write a business plan
- Interact with business professionals
- Pitch their business plan to potential “investors” (think Shark Tank meets the Apprentice meets American Idol)
- Obtain funding
- Legally register their businesses
- Participate in a Trade Show
- Actually launch their own businesses or social movements

Why Apply?

This program offers students the chance to:

- Develop the skills necessary to launch their own business or social movement (hands-on entrepreneurial experience!)
- Learn about real businesses - why they succeed or fail.
- Hear from local entrepreneurs.
- Launch their own business or social movement!
- Become more confident in their ideas and their abilities.

Organization of Program

YEA! classes will meet Tuesdays starting October 2015 through May 2016, 4-7pm at the Beaverton High School Library and Computer Lab.

There are no classes during regular school holidays and recesses. Students are taught by an instructor, but are exposed to guest lecturers, successful entrepreneurs and business mentors. The class goes on field trips to a variety of local businesses. Finally, the students participate in three major events throughout the year: the Investor Panel, Trade Show and a formal graduation ceremony.

Student Selection Process

To apply for YEA!, students must:

- Fill out the YEA! application
- Complete the essay and the short answer questions
- Submit their transcripts
- Submit a letter of recommendation

Once the completed application packet is received, students will be asked to come in for an interview. Acceptance in the program is based on all aspects of an application, as well as the personal interview. Prior experience with business is not required!

How Business Professionals Can Get Involved

Through their interactions with business professionals during the year, YEA! students gain some of the most important knowledge and experience they need to succeed. Local professionals volunteer their time and expertise as guest speakers, mentors, investors, graphic designers, field trip hosts, business plan reviewers, and much more. The time YEA! students spend with adults who encourage their futures is invaluable, and participants often report getting even more out of their participation than they put in to it!

If you are interested in becoming involved with YEA! as a guest speaker, fieldtrip host, or volunteer, contact Evelyn Orr at 503 350 2004, evelyn@beaverton.org.

Sponsors

A big thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, Oregonians Credit Union, who have helped bring YEA! to Beaverton!

**To apply or for more information, call or email Evelyn Orr at 503 350 2004,
evelyn@beaverton.org**

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