



## Youth Organizer Program *for young women of color*

**Application Deadline: 5:00pm on Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

*Accepted by mail, email or hand-delivered. Please NO faxes.*

**Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.**

### **Question & Answer Session**

**Friday, April 25th from 4pm-6pm**

Girls for Gender Equity

30 Third Avenue, Suite 103

Brooklyn, NY 11217

**All applicants are highly encouraged to attend!**

#### **Contact:**

**Nefertiti Martin, Community Organizer**

**coalition@ggenyc.org**

**718.857.1393 ext. 102**

Visit [www.ggenyc.org](http://www.ggenyc.org)

*Girls for Gender Equity is committed to the physical, psychological, social and economic development of girls and women. Through education, organizing and physical fitness, Girls for Gender Equity encourages communities to remove barriers and create opportunities for girls and women to live self-determined lives. Girls for Gender Equity celebrates all gender identities and expressions and encourages young trans\* women and gender non-conforming people of color to apply.*

**Sisters in Strength Youth Organizer Application**

**What is Sisters in Strength?**

- Sisters in Strength (SIS) is a 2-year youth organizing program for 15 young women of color, entering 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Programming is shaped both by the unique needs and interests of the SIS youth organizers, and by Girls for Gender Equity’s (GGE) vision, mission, and goals.
- SIS does community organizing around gender-based violence and confronts the multiple layers of individual and institutional discrimination that threaten the safety of girls and women.

**Are you...?:**

*Before completing the application, please verify below that you are eligible for Sisters in Strength.*

- \_\_\_ Available for an interview after school during the week of June 9-13<sup>th</sup>?
- \_\_\_ Interested in and passionate about social justice, especially gender- and race-related issues?
- \_\_\_ Eager to build community organizing and leadership skills in partnership with peers and adults?
- \_\_\_ Entering 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade?
- \_\_\_ Willing to make a 2-year commitment to being an SIS youth organizer?
- \_\_\_ Able to meet every Wednesday (except during school vacations) from 4pm-7pm?
- \_\_\_ Available to complete 2-4 additional hours of leadership opportunities each month?
- \_\_\_ Curious about what activism can look like within a community-based organization?

**Time Commitment:**

The Sisters in Strength youth organizing program is a 2-year time commitment, from early September 2014 – June 2016.

- Weekly
  - Group meeting on Wednesdays from 4pm-7pm
  - 1 homework assignment
- Monthly
  - 2-4 additional hours of leadership opportunities
- Over the Year
  - 6 check-ins with MSW intern to support your yearly goals

*We have done our best to estimate time commitment. Please note that additional mandatory and optional events, trips, activities, etc. may occasionally arise during the course of the program year, primarily after school and on weekends. For events during the school day, school and parent/guardian permission will be required.*

**Compensation:**

- Because Girls for Gender Equity values your time and wants to honor your hard work, Sisters in Strength youth organizers are provided with a monthly stipend.
- Metrocards are available as needed.

Internship Components:

- **Community Organizing 101**
    - Build community organizing skills
    - Develop social justice analysis
    - Engage in community organizing actions
    - Collaborate to conceptualize project for Year 2
  
  - **Community Organizing Project**
    - Identify a problem within the scope of gender-based violence
    - Collaborate with and mobilize community members to action
    - Evaluate the process
  
  - **Ongoing Leadership Components:**
    - Monthly peer workshops and counseling about the college process with former SIS youth organizers.
    - Quarterly check-ins with a Masters of Social Work intern. At GGE, we firmly believe that transformational leadership and community organizing are linked to personal wellness. Our structure includes circles of support at every level, from interns to management.
    - Facilitate workshops with the NYC school community based on what you're learning at GGE.
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**To apply for the Sisters in Strength Youth Organizing program,  
you must complete ALL of the following items:**

1. Legibly fill out your Contact Information, your Parent/Guardian Contact Information, and School Information (page 4).
2. Complete the short answer questions (pages 5 & 6).
3. Provide your signature (page 6).
4. Obtain 1 recommendation from a teacher or mentor (page 7).

**Application Deadline: 5:00pm on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
***Mail or email ONLY. No faxes.***  
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**Sisters in Strength Youth Organizer Application**

**Applicant Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Race: \_\_\_\_\_

Best way to contact you: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you eligible to work in the U.S.? (circle answer)      Yes      No

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Contact Information**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if different from yours): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**School Information**

*Give as much information as possible.*

1. Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Grade for 2014-2015 school year:      10      11

3. What time do you anticipate leaving school?:

Monday \_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday \_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday \_\_\_\_\_ Thursday \_\_\_\_\_ Friday \_\_\_\_\_

4. How many classes will you be taking next year? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What other programs, teams, internships, or jobs will you be participating in during the next school year?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Are there any issues or personal matters that you think may make it challenging for you to fully participate in this internship program from September 2014 – June 2016?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Have you ever participated in a youth internship or program before? Circle one.

Yes      No      If "Yes", which program(s) and what was your role?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Short Answer Questions**

**Please answer the questions below in complete sentences.**

**You may attach additional pages if need be.**

1. Why are you interested in becoming a Sisters in Strength Youth Organizer? How would you like to grow from this experience?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How did you hear about Sisters in Strength?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Please describe a time when you contributed to positive change in your neighborhood, school, home or any other community you may identify with culturally, spiritually, etc.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. At Girls for Gender Equity all people’s identities are respected. We are a very diverse community in terms of race, religion, ethnicity, immigration status, sexual orientation, ability, gender identity, gender expression, etc. We want young women to join Sisters in Strength who will respect diversity.

Describe your experiences interacting with young women from different schools, neighborhoods, backgrounds and identities (examples: different races, abilities, religions, sexual orientations, etc.).

**Short Answer Questions (continued)**

5. Can you recall a time when you taught, led, supported or guided someone through a process? (i.e. tutored someone in math, choreographed a dance, led a group of peers) Please describe what was most challenging. What did you learn about yourself?

6. What is a gender justice issue that you either feel particularly passionate about, are affected by or feel you would like to know more about? Please explain why or how this issue affects you and/or what more you would like to know about it. (ex. sexual and/or reproductive health, street harassment, gender-based inequities in schools, pay inequity, trans\* discrimination, LGBTQ [lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans\*, queer/questioning] youth homelessness, domestic violence, LGBTQ bullying)  
*\*: all identities falling along the transgender and gender nonconforming spectrum*

**Signature**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (applicant's name printed), have represented myself honestly in this application.

Signature of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Sisters in Strength Youth Organizer Application**

**Recommendation Form**

**Please return this form, and any attached pages, by 5:00pm on May 9, 2014 to Nefertiti Martin, Community Organizer, at [coalition@ggenyc.org](mailto:coalition@ggenyc.org), or the address at the bottom of the page.**

*Sisters in Strength (SIS) is a 2-year youth organizing program for 15 young women of color, entering 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Programming is shaped both by the unique needs and interests of the SIS cohort, and by GGE's vision, mission, and goals. SIS does community organizing around gender-based violence and confronts the multiple layers of individual and institutional discrimination that threaten the safety of girls and women.*

Applicant's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommender's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommender's title: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommender's preferred contact (email or phone): \_\_\_\_\_

1. For how long, and in what capacity, have you known the applicant?
  
2. What do you consider to be the applicant's strengths/ talents? What are their weaknesses/challenges?
  
3. How do you foresee the applicant growing through their involvement in the Sisters in Strength Youth Organizing program?
  
4. Provide one example of how the applicant has exhibited desire to affect positive change in their community.
  
5. Please share any additional information about the applicant that you feel is important for Girls for Gender Equity to consider.

Recommender's signature: _____	Date: _____
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## Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Is the Question & Answer Session on Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> mandatory?**
  - The Q&A Session is not mandatory, however ALL applicants are highly encouraged to attend!
  - It will be an opportunity to learn more important information about Sisters in Strength and Girls for Gender Equity, as well as to meet other applicants and GGE staff.
  
- 2. Where is the Q&A Session being held?**
  - It will be at Girls for Gender Equity's office:
    - 30 Third Avenue, Suite 103  
Brooklyn, NY 11217
  
- 3. What happens after I turn in my application?**
  - Once you submit your application, GGE will contact you about next steps.
  - If you are asked to come in for an interview, it will be scheduled during the week of June 9-13.
    - *Your application does not guarantee an interview.*
  - Everyone will be notified of the status of their application, via email or phone, by July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014.
    - *Do not call to inquire about your status!*
  
- 4. How can I send in my application?**
  - You may mail, email, or drop off your application. The application must arrive in our office by 5:00pm on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014.
    - *Faxed applications will not be accepted.*
  
- 5. My teacher/counselor gave me the application on the day of the deadline. Can I turn it in late?**
  - No, applications must be in our office by 5:00pm on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014. We won't accept late applications *for any reason.*
  
- 6. I won't be able to do this internship for 2 years because I have a scheduling conflict on the mandatory meeting dates (ex. softball/basketball/debate team practice). Can I still apply?**
  - Sisters in Strength requires a significant time commitment (see page 2). If you know that you are unable to make that commitment, we ask that you do not apply.
  
- 7. What if I'm accepted to SIS, and at some point during the program, I am offered or apply to another opportunity (ex. softball, part-time job, internship) that directly conflicts with SIS?**
  - Again Sisters in Strength requires a significant time commitment (see page 2). If you know that you are unable to make that commitment and/or your interests are elsewhere, we ask that you do not apply.