



Greetings,

The Erie City Mission's Urban University Youth Program empowers 7th-12th grade students in Erie County toward servant leadership through a variety of experiences that include career exploration, academic enrichment, mentorship, service learning, and faith formation.

Thank you for considering investing here as a lead teacher, support mentor, dinner chef, or van driver.

Steps to apply:

- Review the course schedule and program contract (see below).
 - So that our adult leaders are modeling commitment to our students, please carefully consider the schedule of each course you are applying for as you will be expected to be in attendance for every class.
- Complete mentor registration process at this [link](#).
- Schedule an interview with Program Director.

We look forward to having you help shape our future leaders,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rose Marie Croce".

RoseMarie Croce
Director of Youth Ministries
814-572-2365 Cell
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2026 Summer Course Schedule:

June 8-10

Introduction to Scuba Diving with Diver's World

An introduction to the core principles of scuba diving, including dive equipment, underwater communication, buoyancy control, descents, hand signals, and proper breathing techniques. Students build confidence above the surface on day 1, then suit up for guided pool dives on days 2 and 3 to practice skills in a controlled underwater environment.

Course Lead: Ms. Nicole Tupek

Location: Diver's World (1111 Greengarden Blvd) & Haggerty Family Events Center Pool (501 West 12th Street)

Time: 8:45 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Student Showcase: Wednesday, June 10, 1:45 p.m.

June 15-19

Multi-Course Week (choose one course per session)

Location: First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant (250 West 7th Street)

If only serving at one course, Morning session ends with lunch/Afternoon session begins with lunch.

Morning Session: 8:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Diorama/3D Art

This 3D visual art form combines elements of sculpture, modeling, and storytelling. Challenge your creativity using a variety of everyday materials to model, design, detail, and paint in the world of miniatures.

Course Lead: Miss Serena Godoy

Hospitality & Culinary Arts

Students will work alongside guest chefs to prepare, cook, and serve lunch. This will be fast-paced and require students to exercise a strong and focused work ethic, the ability to multi-task, and serve as a team player.

Course Lead: Daily Guest Chefs

Prerequisite: Must have previously taken a UU culinary course.

Marquetry Wood Art

Learn the art of creating detailed images and patterns using carefully cut and assembled wood veneers.

Students will learn design planning, precision cutting, layering techniques, and finishing methods while crafting their own decorative marquetry artwork.

Course Lead: Mr. Paul Sayre

Sewing & Denim Design

Beginner and advanced students will have the opportunity to learn and enhance their sewing machine skills as they uniquely design and create their choice of a body or throw pillow.

Course Lead: Mrs. Susan Hershelman

Afternoon Session: 10:45 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

American Sign Language

An introduction to ASL in an immersive environment where students learn through a variety of activities, basic conversation, narrative skills, interpreting music through sign, as well as experiences in understanding deaf culture.

Course Lead: Mrs. Tracey Berger

Baking 101

Learn the science, techniques, and art of baking, and how to make a variety of desserts, cookies, and breads from scratch in a professional kitchen.

Course Lead: Ms. Elaine Ghazinour

Crochet

Learn to crochet! Beginners will learn the basics and crochet an amigurumi project. Advanced students will be challenged to crochet projects at a higher level of difficulty.

Course Lead: Pastor Andy Muscella

June 22-26 **Leaders In Action/Servant Leadership Week**

Students will have the opportunity to plan and implement several outreach days featuring engaging activities with members of Erie's refugee and immigrant communities, as well as veterans residing at the Soldiers & Sailors Home. Through these experiences, students will practice servant leadership while building meaningful connections across generations and cultures. The week will conclude with a Family Campfire with residents at the Soldiers & Sailors Home on Friday, June 26.

Course Lead: RoseMarie Croce, Kerrie Grande, Katy Dilling

Location: Erie City Mission Youth Classroom (1017 French St) & Multiple Off-Site Locations

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Family Campfire: Soldiers & Sailors Home, Friday, June 26, 6:00 p.m.

July 6-10 & **Erie History Investigators**

July 13-17

Students will explore local historical sites and museums to uncover stories of struggle, sacrifice, and perseverance in our community. Through research and creative project development, they will transform what they discover about those who came before into a public presentation that shares Erie's history with others. This is the second of four courses with a focus on history over the next year that will culminate with a historical trip to Washington D.C. in the Spring of 2027. Students will be selected for this experience based on their participation in this, previous, and future historical courses.

Course Lead: Mr. Kevin Fallon

Location: Erie City Mission Youth Classroom (1017 French St) & Multiple Off-Site Locations

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Student Showcase: Friday, July 17, 11:00 a.m.

July 20-24 **Fitness Bootcamp**

Students will be challenged in individual and group cardio and strength training exercises to promote a habit and discipline for life-long mental and physical wellness while strengthening leadership characteristics.

Course Lead: Mrs. Jeri Pistone

Location: Multiple Off-Site Locations

Time: 9:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

July 20-24 **Pickleball**

Beginner and experienced players will learn or improve at the nation's fastest-growing sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and ping pong. Pickleball is easy to learn, fun to play, and an effective cross-training activity.

Course Lead: Erie Pickleball Players Association

Location: Around The Post Indoor Pickleball Facility (2660 Zuck Road)

Time: 12:40 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

August 6-7 **Global Leadership Summit**

The Global Leadership Summit is an annual conference of world-renowned leaders that is broadcast to hundreds of host sites across the United States and around the world. It is designed to develop leadership skills for people in business, nonprofit, church, education, and community organizations. Select Urban University students that demonstrate an exceptional level of leadership and maturity will have the opportunity to attend.

Event Lead: RoseMarie Croce

Location: Grace Church, Harborcreek

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Prerequisites: Students must participate in at least two other summer courses, including either or both Leaders in Action or Erie History Investigators. Because this is a professional event, final approval from the Urban University Director is also required.

August 10-14 **Ship and Shore with the Regional Science Consortium**

During this immersive experience, students will explore the science of Lake Erie—from its shores and lagoons to its open waters. Students will sail aboard the historic *Lettie G. Howard* tall ship while collecting scientific data, then analyze their samples at the Regional Science Consortium labs, testing for bacteria, identifying plankton species, and conducting microscopic analysis. Students will also study Lake Erie's rich maritime history, including its more than 200 recorded shipwrecks, and participate in activities used by shipwreck scientists such as trilateration and 3D modeling.

Course Lead: Regional Science Consortium

Location: Tom Ridge Environmental Center (301 Peninsula Drive)

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Student Showcase: Friday, August 14, 1:00 p.m.

Semester Details

- Each course accepts between 6-12 students and includes a nutritious meal.
- It is expected that you check dates such as vacation, family events, appointments, etc. against our schedule so that you may ensure your attendance for every session, unless you are sick.
- Questions? Call the Director of Youth Ministries at 814-572-2365.

[APPLY HERE](#)



Mentor Program Contract

Our Mission:

Urban University (UU) seeks to develop junior high and high school students in Erie County toward servant leadership through a variety of experiences that include career exploration, academic enrichment, commerce, service learning, mentorship, and faith formation.

Mentor Expectations:

Through intentional and authentic mentorship, we hope to make an eternal impact in the lives of our participating youth. We believe that if we give respect and our very best, we can rightly ask for respect and their very best in return.

Please carefully consider the following expectations before making this commitment.

1. Commitment is number one. “But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’” (Matt. 5:37 NKJV)
Our students are counting on you to be there each week. We exemplify and model this without words.
2. Exercise a humble and teachable attitude. Our goal is to model for our students what authentic respect and teamwork look like. We value everyone’s ideas; however, please note that there are appropriate times and ways to communicate them.
3. Model respect for the property and materials we have the privilege to use.
4. Use appropriate and encouraging language.
5. Unless it is an emergency, do not check or use your cell phone or other media devices during program hours. Our complete attention honors our students.
6. Do not friend or exchange personal information with any student, or post or share any pictures of UU students or events on any of your personal social media pages or other communication platforms.
7. Whenever traveling in our program vehicles, you must follow our “Rules of the Road” policy: proper use of seatbelt, maintaining an appropriate noise level, and keeping hands to yourself.
8. Dress code is neat and modest—no tank tops or camisoles, no visible undergarments, pants must be pulled up to waist, shorts must be at least fingertip length, closed toe shoes are required.

UU Staff are always available to discuss and assess best approaches to any situation not specified in these guidelines.

I understand that if these expectations are willfully disregarded, or if any of the following misconduct occurs, it will result in my immediate dismissal as a mentor with the Urban University program.

1. Behavior that threatens any person’s right to feel and be safe.
2. Behavior that includes inappropriate touching of a person’s body, and/or using disrespectful or sexual language, inferences, or actions.
3. Behavior involving purposeful destruction of property, or theft.
4. Disrespect or disregard of Urban University staff and/or guidelines.

CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE by Dorothy Lew Nolte

*If a child lives with criticism, He learns to condemn.
If a child lives with hostility, He learns to fight.
If a child lives with ridicule, He learns to be shy.
If a child lives with shame, He learns to feel guilty.
If a child lives with tolerance, He learns to be patient.
If a child lives with encouragement, He learns confidence.
If a child lives with praise, He learns to appreciate.
If a child lives with fairness, He learns justice.
If a child lives with security, He learns to have faith.
If a child lives with approval, He learns to like himself.
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,
He learns to find love in the world.*

**“Watch your thoughts, they become your words;
watch your words, they become your actions;
watch your actions, they become your habits;
watch your habits, they become your character;
watch your character, it becomes your destiny.”**
~Frank Outlaw

WHAT WILL MATTER by Michael Josephson

*Ready or not, some day it will all come to an end.
There will be no more sunrises, no minutes, hours, or days.
All the things you collected, whether treasured or forgotten, will pass to someone else.
Your wealth, fame, and temporal power will shrivel to irrelevance.
It will not matter what you owned or what you were owed.
Your grudges, resentments, frustrations, and jealousies will finally disappear.
So, too, your hopes, ambitions, plans, and to-do lists will expire.
The wins and losses that once seemed so important will fade away.
It won't matter where you came from or what side of the tracks you lived on at the end.
It won't matter whether you were beautiful or brilliant.
Even your gender and skin color will be irrelevant.
So, what will matter? How will the value of your days be measured?
What will matter is not what you bought but what you built; not what you got but what you gave.
What will matter is not your success but your significance.
What will matter is not what you learned but what you taught.
What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage,
or sacrifice that enriched, empowered, or encouraged others to emulate your example.
What will matter is not your competence but your character.
What will matter is not how many people you knew but how many will feel a lasting loss when you're gone.
What will matter is not your memories but the memories of those who loved you.
What will matter is how long you will be remembered, by whom, and for what.
Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident.
It's not a matter of circumstance but of choice.
Choose to live a life that matters.*

Thank you for choosing to invest in Urban University.