



Greetings Students and Parents,

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.

Steps to apply:

- Parent and student: review course schedule and program contract (see below).
 - Program spots are limited. Before applying please carefully consider the schedule commitment of each course.

- Student: complete and submit online leadership questionnaires.
 - [First Time Students](#)
 - [Returning Students](#)

- Schedule interview with Program Director
 - Both parent and student are expected to participate in the interview as we see this communication and connection as a critical part of the equation in partnering with you in the character development of your child.

We look forward to meeting you,

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

RoseMarie Croce
Director of Youth Ministries
814-572 2365 Cell
rmcroce@eriecitymission.org



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: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$30.00

Prerequisite: Must participate in at least one other summer course.

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)

Cost: 1 Course \$30.00, 2 Courses \$40.00

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

Morning Session: 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 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: 11:00 a.m. – 2:30 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: 8:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Cost: \$25.00
Family Campfire: Soldiers & Sailors Home, Friday, June 26, 6:00 p.m.
- July 6-10 & July 13-17** **Erie History Investigators**
 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: 8:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Cost: \$35.00
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: 10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Cost: \$15.00 OR \$25.00 for both Fitness and Pickleball
Transportation from and back to Erie City Mission available only if taking both courses.
- 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: 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Cost: \$15.00 OR \$25.00 for both Fitness and Pickleball
Transportation from and back to Erie City Mission available only if taking both courses.
Youth Pickleball Tournament: Sunday, July 26 (optional to participate)
- 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.
Cost: \$10.00
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: 8:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Cost: \$30.00

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

Semester Details

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

[**APPLY HERE**](#)



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.

Students and families are not required to be of Christian faith to participate in UU; however, components of the program incorporate life and leadership principles from the Bible which are encouraged and practiced for character development and life-long success.

We (the parent and the student) agree to the following expectations of the Urban University program.

1. Participation: *I have made a decision to be part of this program; therefore, I will take full advantage of the opportunity.*
2. Challenge: *I am willing to stretch myself to grow.*
3. Respect: *I understand the importance of respecting my leaders, my peers, and the property and materials I have the privilege to use.*
4. Grades: *I commit to giving my best in my education.*
5. Language: *I will use my words to build up others.*
6. Cellphones: *I understand that cellphones and other media devices are not permitted to be used during program hours unless a leader allows it for an educational purpose or experience. Cell phones will be collected upon arrival to the program and redistributed upon dismissal.*
7. Communication: *If I do not understand a UU policy or decision, I will take responsibility to share my questions or concern with a staff member.*
8. Travel: *I will practice respect when traveling in UU vehicles, properly using seatbelts, demonstrating appropriate noise levels, and keeping my hands to myself.*
9. Dress Code: *I understand the dress code is neat, respectful, and modest - no tank tops or camisoles, no visible undergarments, pants must be pulled up to waist, shorts must be at least fingertip length, hoods must remain down indoors and out unless weather warrants, and closed toe shoes are required.*
10. Attendance: *I understand, as the student, that I am committing to 100% attendance and to giving my best. I understand, as the parent, that I am expected to communicate in advance if my student is sick or not able to attend the UU program.*

We (the parent and the student) understand that if these expectations are not followed, or any of the following misconduct occurs, it will result in immediate dismissal from 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. Use of vaping, smoking, drugs, or alcohol.
5. Disrespect or refusing to follow directions of Urban University staff or mentors.

By completing the Urban University Program Application, we (the parent and the student) acknowledge that we have read and carefully considered these program expectations and commit to giving our best to get the most from this opportunity.

Biblical Leadership Principles:

Compassion

- “And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:32 MEV)
- “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” (Colossians 3:12 NIV)

Excellence/Giving Your Best

- “And whoever compels you to go a mile, go with him two.” (Matthew 5:41 MEV)
- “Don’t let anyone make fun of you, just because you are young. Set an example for other followers by what you say and do, as well as by your love, faith, and purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12 CEV)

Integrity

- “Say only yes if you mean yes, and no if you mean no.” (Matthew 5:37a NCV)
- “Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.” (Titus 2:7 ESV)
- “God delights in those who keep their promises and abhors those who don’t.” (Proverbs 12:22 TLB)
- “Put the word into action. If you think hearing is what matters most, you are going to find you have been deceived.” (James 1:22 The Voice)
- “Stop judging by the way things look. Be fair and judge by what is really right.” (John 7:24 ERV)

Perseverance

- “And let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t get discouraged and give up.” (Galatians 6:9 TLB)
- “Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow, and don’t try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete.” (James 1:2-4 TLB)

Positive Attitude

- “Brothers and sisters, think about the things that are good and worthy of praise. Think about the things that are true and honorable and right and pure and beautiful and respected.” (Philippians 4:8 NCV)
- “Do everything without complaining or arguing.” (Philippians 2:14 NCV)
- “A cheerful disposition is good for your health; gloom and doom leave you bone-tired.” (Proverbs 17:22 MSG)

Power of Words

- “Your speech should always be gracious and sprinkled with insight so that you may know how to respond to every person.” (Colossians 4:6 CEB)
- “My dear brothers and sisters, always be willing to listen and slow to speak. Do not become angry easily.” (James 1:19 NCV)
- “Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.” (Ephesians 4:29 NLT)
- “Kind words are like honey---sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.” (Proverbs 16:24)
- “A gentle answer makes anger disappear, but a rough answer makes it grow.” (Proverbs 15:1 ERV)

Respect

- “Treat people the same way you want them to treat you.” (Luke 6:31 NASB)
- “Love each other as brothers and sisters and honor others more than you do yourself.” (Romans 12:10 CEV)

Service

- “When you do things, do not let selfishness or pride be your guide. Instead, be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves. Do not be interested only in your own life but be interested in the lives of others.” (Philippians 2:3-4 NCV)
- “Help each other in troubles and problems. This is the kind of law Christ asks us to obey.” (Galatians 6:2 NLV)