



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 "RoseMarie Croce".

RoseMarie Croce
Director of Youth Ministries
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2026 Winter/Spring After School Course Schedule:

Mosaic Art:

Tuesdays and Thursdays/6 sessions total (January 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29)

Discover the unique design and expression of mosaic art as students transform tile, glass, and other found objects to produce shapes, colors, and patterns into creative works of art.

Course Lead: Mr. Matt Gatenby

Time: 3:45p.m. – 7:15p.m.

Location: Erie City Mission Youth Classroom (1017 French Street)

Cost: \$25.00

Leadership In Action/Constitution Alive:

Tuesdays and Thursdays/8 sessions total (February 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26)

Examine the United States Constitution for yourself to discover its original intent and foundational principles to guide our rights and responsibilities as citizens. This is the first of 3-4 courses 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 and future historical courses.

Course Lead: Mr. Christopher Work

Location: Erie City Mission Youth Classroom (1017 French Street)

Time: 3:45p.m. – 7:15p.m.

Cost: \$30.00

Pickleball:

Mondays and Wednesdays/8 sessions total (March 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25)

Learn or advance your skills through drills, games, and competitions in this professional and rising sport.

There is no dinner for this course.

Course Lead: RoseMarie Croce

Location: Church of the Cross (5901 Millfair Road)

Time: 3:45p.m. – 6:30p.m.

Cost: \$25.00

Sustainable Technology & Robotics:

Tuesdays and Thursdays/8 sessions total (April 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30)

Explore computer programming robotics, and the ways these technologies can be applied for sustainable, ecological practices through hands-on instruction using micro:bit single board computers, various digital sensors, and interlocking building materials to make simple environmental monitoring and robotic devices. Lessons guided by the Regional Science Consortium in computer and environmental science will challenge participants to create their own technology-based solutions to an environmental issue.

Course Lead: Regional Science Consortium Staff

Location: Erie City Mission Youth Classroom (1017 French Street)

Time: 3:45p.m. – 7:15p.m.

Cost: \$30.00

DSLR Photography:

Mondays and Wednesdays/6 sessions total (May 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20)

Learn the mechanics of a Digital Single Lens Reflex camera and discover how to utilize manual settings to apply professional photographic techniques, such as focus, aperture, shutter speed, exposure, and composition, followed by editing with the Light Room app.

Course Lead: Jessica Crossley, Owner, Joyful Expressions Photography

Location: Erie City Mission Youth Classroom (1017 French Street)

Time: 3:45p.m. – 7:15p.m.

Cost: \$25.00

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM DETAILS:

- Each course accepts between 6-12 students and includes a nutritious meal.
- Please note that our program meets regardless of days off from school. It will be expected that you consider 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.
- Scholarship and transportation needs are considered for qualifying families at interview.

2026 Winter/Spring Youth Commerce/Creative Studios Schedule:

Creative Studios offer veteran students who have already taken these courses to exercise and enhance their learned skills to produce items to sell at our next Urban University Gallery Shops. These events are open to the community and for the purpose of raising funds for our Washington D.C. history trip in Spring of 2027.

Location: Erie City Mission Youth Classroom (1017 French Street)

Time: 2:45p.m. – 6:15p.m.

Cost: \$5.00/Studio

Graphic Design: Tuesdays and Thursdays/4 sessions total (March 17, 19, 24, 26)

Studio Lead: Mr. Andy Muscella

Crochet: Tuesdays and Thursdays/4 sessions total (March 17, 19, 24, 26)

Studio Lead: Mrs. Laura Mentch

Sewing: Mondays and Wednesdays/4 sessions total (April 20, 22, 27, 29)

Studio Lead: Mrs. Susan Hershelman

CREATIVE STUDIO DETAILS:

- Students must have previously taken the course to be eligible to participate in a Creative Studio.
- If students' dismissal from school is later than 3:00PM, they may arrive late.
- No dinner will be served for Creative Studios..
- Please note that Studios will meet regardless of days off from school. It will be expected that you consider 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.

[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.

