



Position Description

Position: Servant Leader, DC CDF Freedom Schools

Reports to: Site Coordinator

Liaise: DC CDF Freedom Schools

Organization Overview

The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) envisions a nation where marginalized children flourish, leaders prioritize their well-being and communities wield the power to ensure they thrive. CDF's Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

We serve and advocate for the largest, most diverse generation in America: the 74 million children and youth under the age of 18 and 30 million young adults under the age of 25, with particular attention to those living in poverty and communities of color. CDF partners with policymakers, aligned organizations and funders in this service. The Children's Defense Fund is the only national, multi-issue advocacy organization working at the intersection of child wellbeing and racial justice by wielding the moral authority of programmatic proximity and community organizing to inform public policy. For more information visit www.childrensdefense.org.

Position Summary

The *CDF Freedom Schools* program is an educational and cultural enrichment program. The program provides summer and after school options for children where there are none and strengthens parent and community involvement in the year-round achievement of children. Programming is provided to children in grades K – 12th and integrates reading, conflict resolution, and social action in an activity-based curriculum to promote social, cultural, and historical awareness.

College-age young adults, recent college graduates, teachers, and former educators play a key role in the CDF Freedom Schools program in the position of Servant Leader. Each CDF Freedom Schools Servant Leader serves as the teacher for a maximum of 10 scholars. Servant Leaders have access to further leadership development and networking opportunities geared toward continued direct service and advocacy on behalf of children and families. This position requires approximately 35 – 40 hours per week.

Responsibilities

Program and Classroom Facilitation

- Serve as a positive role model for all scholars
- Supervise and maintain safety of scholars
- Maintain a professional decorum
- Set up, manage, and break down classroom space according to standards outlined by CDF and the sponsor organization

- Engage a maximum of 10 scholars per class in the Integrated Reading Curriculum
- Attend all required Ella Baker Child Policy Training Institute training sessions
- Work with site staff to ensure that all program components are implemented with fidelity
- Report any issues or concerns regarding program operation to the Site Coordinator

Curriculum

- Use CDF's pre-written curriculum guide to structure daily, culturally relevant lesson plans for enrolled students.

Data, Evaluation, and Reports

- Submit all required documents, data reports (including attendance, etc.), and evaluations to parent organization by the required deadline.

Qualifications

- Must be at least 18 years of age and have completed at least one year of college
- Experience managing large groups of children, college-aged young people, and parents
- Solid commitment to children's advocacy and enthusiasm for the *CDF Freedom Schools* program
- Ability to motivate others and work as part of an intergenerational team
- Strong appreciation and understanding of individual cultural history and the willingness to be open
- Willingness to strive for excellence in all areas and ability to think critically and analytically
- Exhibit behavior and positive attitude; model a mature and professional demeanor; excellent written and verbal skills
- Strong interpersonal skills and commitment to the ethics of character, humility, and servant leadership
- Authorization for background check for criminal and child protective findings

Competencies

- Must have completed at least one year of college in good academic standing
- Ability to motivate others and work as part of an intergenerational team
- Solid commitment to the success and well-being of children
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Exhibit positive behavior and attitude, modeling a mature and professional demeanor
- Capable of working under tight deadlines while maintaining a courteous and supportive demeanor with a range of stakeholders
- Knowledgeable in youth development, critical race theory, and culturally responsive pedagogy
- Excellent time management skills and ability to multi-task and prioritize work

Personal Characteristics

- Orientation to and background of servant leadership
- Passion for CDF's mission and purpose and ability to communicate this passion to others
- Ability to serve as an advocate and exemplar for the vision, values, and mission of the Children's Defense Fund
- A desire to grow professionally and quickly gain new understanding and learn new skills
- Demonstrated strong relational skills

Type of work environment associated with the job

- indoor, school, program site and office setting

To apply, please visit <https://www.childrensdefense.org/programs/cdf-freedom-schools-dc/>

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