



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 student](#)
  - [Returning student](#)
- 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](mailto:rmcroce@eriecitymission.org)



## 2025 Summer Course Schedule

### **June 9-12** **Tie Dye Explosion**

Get immersed into the art of Tie-Dye as you learn its history and explore color blending with several different types of folds and techniques.

**Course Lead:** Tie Dye Louis

**Location:** Erie City Mission Youth Classroom (1017 French St)

**Time:** 8:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$30.00

### **June 16-20** **Multi-Course Week (choose one course only)**

#### **Mixed Media Art**

Learn an array of mixed media techniques including collage, multi-layered elements, textures, and mark making to create a personalized art journal.

**Course Lead:** Mr. Scott Kennedy

#### **Hospitality & Culinary Arts**

Student chefs will learn hands-on kitchen and hospitality management as they daily prepare, cook, and serve lunch in a professional kitchen. This will be fast-paced, and require students to exercise focus, work ethic, multi-tasking, and teamwork.

**Course Lead:** Ms. Elaine Ghazinour

#### **Sewing & Design**

Beginner and advanced students will have the opportunity to learn and enhance their sewing machine skills as they uniquely design and create a midi or crossbody bag.

**Course Lead:** Mrs. Susan Hershelman

**Location:** First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant (250 West 7<sup>th</sup> St)

**Time:** 8:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$30.00

**Student Showcase:** Friday, June 20, 1:15 p.m.

### **June 23-27** **Crocheting**

Learn the art of crochet; read patterns, understand yarn, and create fun Amigurumis.

**Course Lead:** Pastor Andy Muscella

**Location:** Erie City Mission Youth Classroom (1017 French St)

**Time:** 8:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$30.00

### **July 7-11** **Physics**

Explore physics, the study of everything in the universe and how and why it works, through a variety of hands-on labs with science professors at Mercyhurst University.

**Course Lead:** Dr. Joe Johnson

**Location:** Mercyhurst University (501 East 38<sup>th</sup> St)

**Time:** 8:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$30.00

**Student Showcase:** Friday, July 11, 1:00 p.m.

### **July 14-18** **The Science of Presque Isle**

Take a deeper look as we study the plant, animal, and water life on Presque Isle State Park and be a part of the Regional Science Consortium's team for behind the scenes testing and research that helps to maintain one of Erie's greatest assets and resources.

**Course Lead:** Dr. Jeanette Schnars

**Location:** Tom Ridge Environmental Center (301 Peninsula Dr)

**Time:** 8:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Cost:** \$30.00

**Student Showcase:** Friday, July 18, 1:00 p.m.

**July 22-26 Diorama/3D Art**

3D Diorama is a three-dimensional visual art form that 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

**Location:** Erie City Mission Youth Classroom (1017 French St)

**Time:** 8:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$30.00

**Jul 28-Aug 1 Get Healthy 101**

Understand the science behind taking care of your mind, body, and soul with good nutrition and fitness. Learn how to prepare healthy foods, apply mindfulness practices, and begin fun fitness habits.

**Course Lead:** Mrs. Jessica Lake, MS, RDN, LD

**Location:** Erie City Mission Youth Classroom (1017 French St) Includes off-site field trips

**Time:** 8:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$30.00

**August 4-9 MAXX Leadership at WLD Ranch & the Global Leadership Summit**

This week is specifically designed to challenge personal, team, and spiritual growth. We will start with 4 days and 3 nights serving at WLD Ranch that will also include horseback riding, canoeing, archery, campfires, and much more! We will conclude Thursday and Friday by attending the Global Leadership Summit and hearing from world-renowned leaders telecasted live at Grace Church.

**Course Leads:** Urban University Staff

**Locations:** WLD Ranch (7351 Woolsey Rd, Girard) & Grace Church (2420 Cumberland Rd, Harborcreek))

**Time:** August 3 – Drop Off: 3:00 p.m. at WLD.

August 6 – Pick Up: 3:00 p.m.

August 7 & 8 – 9:15 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**Cost:** \$50.00

**Prerequisite:** Must participate in at least two other summer courses and serve on the student leadership team at a minimum of three or more of our Neighborhood Outreaches.

**Thursdays Servant Leadership Neighborhood Outreaches \***

To apply and practice servant leadership, we will co-host weekly connection picnics for the neighborhood around the Frontier Picnic Pavilion (East 6<sup>th</sup> & Bayfront Parkway)

\*All summer students must participate in at least one or more of these outreach dates.

\*All students accepted into the MAXX Leadership course must serve on the student leadership team for three or more of these outreach dates.

Thursdays: June 19, 26, July 10, July 17, July 24, July 31 from 1:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

**August 10 Summer Family Celebration**

All summer student families are invited to an end of semester picnic at Baldwin Park (2419 Geist Road) for food, fellowship, games, pickleball lessons and play with the Erie Pickleball Players Association. More details TBA.

**Semester Details**

- Scholarship and transportation needs are considered for qualifying families.
- Each course accepts between 6-12 students and includes a nutritious meal.
- 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)