



Youth Empowerment Program (YEP)



The Hudson River Sloop Clearwater invites you to be apart of a unique experience this summer onboard the tall ship, Clearwater. A replica of a 19th century Hudson River sailboat, the Clearwater acts as a floating environmental classroom that seeks to inspire lifelong fascination with and a strong sense of stewardship for the natural world. Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) specifically seeks to engage young people who identify as LGBTQ and allies in discovering and developing new talents and abilities in an amazing, unconventional, unforgettable experience!



When and Where? This Youth Empowerment Program will begin in Poughkeepsie New York at 9:00 am, July 27th. Participants can either come by train or be dropped off by car. Poughkeepsie is on the Metro North line. We'll have a crewmember riding the Metro North train from NYC.

We will sail on the Hudson River over the course of the two-day journey and drop participants off in Poughkeepsie, NY again.

What are we doing? Our ship is an incredible place to learn about your local environment, about living in a tight community and what makes a strong leader. Clearwater has been providing leadership training and environmental education for participants in our Young Women and Young Men at the Helm programs for the past 10 years. Traditionally, many members of Clearwater's crew identify as gay and have been calling for an environmental education program focusing on empowering our LGBTQ youth. 2009, we kicked off the first Youth

Empowerment Program for LGTBQ and Allies and we're excited to revive it again this summer!

This year you'll be involved in a wide range of physical and academic activities in small groups and as a larger team. Together we will sail, fish, test and examine water quality, and navigate the sloop. We will also examine development of environmental and LGTBQ movements and discuss how to be a leader in both. Many of our former crew will be returning to talk about their experiences as sailors and in other professions. Several guest speakers will be talking about community leadership, careers, and the limitless opportunities open to everyone today.

Who? This program is open to young people who identify as LGBTQ and allies from the ages of 15 to 20.

What do I bring? We will provide food, water bottles, sunscreen, bug spray and educational materials. If you have a sleeping bag please bring it, but we are also able to provide sleeping bags and mats if you need to borrow them. Feel free to bring a cell phone but be aware that we will collect them during the day and return them for an hour each evening to call loved ones and there are no facilities for charging phones on the boat. Bring clothes for three days that you don't mind getting dirty, closed toed shoes, a camera, toiletries, a bathing suit and a towel.

Is the boat safe? Yes. The *Clearwater* is Coast Guard approved, and a very stable platform for studying the Hudson River. **This is an educational program, not a hard-core sailing challenge.** All activities will be supervised by a crewmember. Life jackets are available. We will only be on the river, so sea-sickness is usually not a problem. We never sail in dangerous weather, such as thunderstorms

Will we spend the night on the boat? No. We will be camping ashore. We will be sleeping in tents. We have sleeping mats and sleeping bags as needed to borrow.

How much does it cost? IT'S FREE!

Do I have to be a sailor or a scientist to go? No! We'll teach you all you need to know. You must have an open mind and a good attitude. You will be challenged to do many new things while onboard the boat.

Who is in charge of this program? The Clearwater organization plans and carries out the program. Specifically, Clearwater's Educator will be aboard for the entire program along with other experienced Clearwater staff. Learn more about the Clearwater organization at www.clearwater.org.



Sounds great! How do I sign up? You just need to fill out the short application form attached to this page and cut and paste it in an email to educator@clearwater.org, or fax it to 845 831 2821 or mail it to 724 Wolcott Ave, Beacon, NY 12508.

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Complete this application and send it to the above address to reserve your spot! We can only take a maximum of 15 participants—the sooner your application is received the better the chance of there being space for you, send it today!

Name

Age.....

Address

City..... State.....

Zip.....

Telephone: day ()..... evening ().....

Email:.....

How do you identify (optional): Lesbian___ Gay___ Transgender___ Bisexual___
Questioning___, Ally___, Male___, Female___, None of the above___

School/ Community Organization.....

Teacher or Contact Person (optional)

Please answer the following questions briefly. Please use another sheet of paper if needed.

1. What are two strengths or skills you possess?

2. Have you participated in other programs in the LGBTQ community? What were some things you saw that worked well or could have been improved upon?

3. Describe a moment in your life where you felt empowered?

4. What are two things about yourself you would like to improve on?

5. What is a particular challenge you have faced and overcome in regards to your sexual or gender identity?

6. What would you like to get out of your experience on the Clearwater? And what specific issues are you interested in exploring?

7. Do you consider yourself to be a leader? What skills or characteristics do you think are required to be a good leader?

8. What would you like to do in your life if you had no limits?

Thank you and we hope to see you on the river!