

# SADIE NASH LEADERSHIP PROJECT

## APPLICATION PACKET

*“This program has changed my life. Before Sadie Nash, I honestly didn’t know I was a leader or could be one in the future. Now, I know that I am one and I realize that that is a huge responsibility...and that I can do it.”*

*-Sadie Nash Participant, age 17-*



## **Welcome to the Sadie Nash Leadership Project!**

We are a project that brings together dynamic young women leaders like you to share ideas, reflect on experiences, meet amazing role models, and to help transform your community through direct action. We are currently recruiting a strong group of traditional and non-traditional female leaders to join the Sadie Nash Leadership Project for this summer 2006. If you are receiving these materials, you should be honored; it is because you are a leader among your peers.

You will be a part of the leadership of an organization that supports the leadership of young women. You will make your ideas into realities. You will be a part of creating a space where young women can learn from each other. You will lead. Enclosed are materials on the Sadie Nash Leadership Project. We will choose a group of approximately 25 women from New York City high schools who are interested in social activism and leadership to participate in the program this summer.

Please take some time to review the materials (please read all the Frequently Asked Questions) and to contact us with any questions you may have. Please tell us if you know of other young women in high school who you think are also leaders, so that they can learn about this opportunity. This is a chance for you to explore your own identity as a leader and as a young woman. We will have lots of fun, and we hope you will join us as this group of young women comes together to change the world!

# SADIE NASH LEADERSHIP PROJECT

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Who is Sadie Nash?** Sadie Nash was not famous (well, she was *very* briefly). Sadie Nash was born in 1871 and lived in Omaha, Nebraska. She was a community leader and poverty activist. It is in her spirit and her impulse **to take action, to brush convention aside and to lead by example** that has inspired her great-granddaughter, Cecilia Clarke, to establish the Sadie Nash Leadership Project (SNLP).

**What do we do?** SNLP is a unique educational leadership program that is made up of young women ages 14-21 in New York City. We are currently recruiting for our Summer Leadership Institute for 2006. SNLP gives you a chance to meet amazing peers and accomplished leaders (like filmmakers, activists, scientists, artists, writers); to take fun exciting courses (about things like human rights, medicine, sociology, the environment); and to develop your unique way of leading with your peers and with our support. SNLP is *about you, run by you and for you*, as a leader and as a young woman.

**Why do we do it?** The Sadie Nash Leadership Project is designed to guide you through a process in which you come to understand the importance of your life experiences, and how these experiences can be applied to taking action and making change. We believe you, as a young woman in high school, have the ability to change the world, now and in your future. The Sadie Nash Leadership Project is your opportunity to take some time and look at your own leadership, your potential leadership, and the leadership of the women around you.

**How does it work?** The Sadie Nash Leadership Project requires an initial commitment of six weeks. The summer program lasts for six weeks from July 5 – August 16, Monday through Friday from 10:00am until 4:00pm (on Fridays, we have special events and the hours are different). The summer program is located in Manhattan. There will be required pre-session orientation meetings in early June to prepare you for the summer, and to provide an opportunity to meet staff and to get to know each other. During the summer you and your peers will take classes, meet women involved in different forms of leadership, take workshops on issues that are important to you, and explore your own and others' leadership. You will receive a stipend to attend.

**What is the stipend?** To help you cover your expenses (food and transportation) during the summer you will receive a *stipend* during the program for everyday that you are there (\$8 for lunch, \$4 for subway). You only receive the stipend when you are at the program because it covers those two direct costs that come with attendance.

**What is your lateness and attendance policy?** SNLP does not allow more than 3 absences during the summer program. If you have valid reasons for those absences (illness, family emergency) that you did not know about prior to the summer, we will let you return to the program the following summer. SNLP requires attendance for both the strength of the community and to enhance your experience. Also, at SNLP two late arrivals counts as an absence. Please contact us if you have more questions about these policies.

**What happens after the summer?** After your first summer at Sadie Nash, you can join our internship program called Community Action Placements (CAP) where you are paid for your work at an organization in the city that is addressing an issue you care about. If you come back to Sadie Nash for a second summer, we will support you as you develop projects of your own to address issues in your community. Also, after you attend your first summer with SNLP, you can also take classes in our program called *Nash University* that address the practical aspects of leadership such as college assistance, skill building and wellness.

**What will the summer be like if I join the Sadie Nash Leadership Project?** It will be fun, interesting, challenging, creative, and exciting. You will learn new things. You will meet amazing young women and adults. You will make friends. You will be supported, celebrated and respected. You will teach others. You will share ideas and make some of those ideas reality. You will be in a safe and respectful space where learning will be dynamic and where you will be a leader.

# SADIE NASH LEADERSHIP PROJECT

## OUR MISSION

The Sadie Nash Leadership Project promotes leadership, service, and activism among young women. This unique program provides a dynamic and intensive learning experience that centers on the achievements of women, the use of role models, service-based learning and independent social justice projects. The program is designed to strengthen, empower, and equip young women as agents for change in their world. By increasing the participation of women in social, political, and economic decision-making, SNLP seeks to question and redefine the nature of leadership and to promote perspectives and practices that are cooperative, accountable, ethical, and effective.

## OUR GOALS

Criteria for a successful program include but are not limited to: growth in number of applicants and number of high schools, attrition rate, staff retention, and feedback from participants, staff and community. Ultimately, however, the success of SNLP will be reflected in the work and accomplishments of the young women who complete the program as they work to improve our world. Throughout the program, the specific goals for the young women are:

- To increase self-esteem
- To envision themselves as leaders now and in the future
- To understand and seek the right to equality
- To empower their decision-making ability
- To seek and value community action and involvement

## OUR PHILOSOPHY

Sadie Nash is designed to guide young women through a process in which they come to understand the importance of their individual life experiences, and how these experiences can be applied to taking action and making change. We are an educational and advocacy program that provides young female leaders the opportunity to analyze and explore the very nature of leadership.

Essential to the structure of the program and to the educational method is an emphasis on these central points of focus: redefinition of leadership, peer support, & cross-generational mentoring. Our philosophy, which is our guiding force, is built on the following beliefs: *that the foundation of leadership lies in service and activism; that positive reform will result from challenging accepted notions of leadership; and that young women can be a catalyst for social change.*

## THE PROGRAM

The structure of the Sadie Nash Leadership Project is designed to put the young women's notions of leadership through a process of transformation. At every stage in this process, high expectations are expressed for what girls can achieve and how their personal experience is deeply relevant to the cause for action. The program covers the following stages of leadership development:

1. *explore* leadership (Summer Institute: 6 weeks)
2. *watch* leadership in action, develop practical skills (Community Action Placement: 8 months)
3. *be* a leader: move through leadership development and into action (Leadership Action Project: 6 months)
4. *develop* skills to support leadership (Nash University: on-going)
5. *participate* in the leadership of SNLP (On-going)

## THE PROGRAM

The Sadie Nash Leadership Project (SNLP) is a unique educational model that includes rigorous coursework, mentoring, as well as service, experiential, and skill learning including independent youth-designed activism projects. Every aspect of the program is designed to support and develop young women who are able to both visualize themselves as leaders and actualize their leadership.

### SUMMER INSTITUTE (SI)

The SI is an opportunity for young women to take time to look at their own leadership, their potential leadership, and the leadership of others while developing a strong community of female peers. The SI is a unique program that is made up of twenty-five young women currently attending high school. The young women meet women Leaders, like filmmakers, activists, scientists, doctors, politicians, artists, and writers; attend challenging and inspiring courses (on leadership, identity as well as on topics such as human rights, education policy, sociology, women's history); while strengthening, empowering and equipping themselves to be agents for change in their world.

### COMMUNITY ACTION PLACEMENT (CAP)

Each young woman is placed in a progressive community organization that meets her interests and needs. The young women "intern" at that organization for 8 months from mid-October through mid-May for approximately 8 hours per month (2 hours/week). A critical aspect of CAP is examining the structure and leadership of the organization, interviewing the staff & constituents, and developing a thorough understanding of the organization. During this time, SNLP provides: close oversight of the placements as well as personal check-ins and meetings every month. The young women are paid by SNLP for their work at the organizations. CAP is a skill development, service learning, and leadership-training program.

### LEADERSHIP ACTION PROJECTS (LAP)

LAP is based on SNLP's central philosophy that community involvement is integral to addressing issues affecting young women, and to their development as leaders. Through LAP, students create unique projects, individually and together, which are drawn from their personal experiences and are informed by a combination of interaction with role models, material explored in their coursework, and their CAP experience. This project allows them to become familiar with the power of positive peer and adult support in turning their ideas into reality. Acts of leadership are not judged on size or scope, but rather effort, action, creativity and sincerity -- all in the belief that no action is too small, if effective. For each LAP, each young woman will be required to define measurable and viable goals for her project, provide the reasons for taking action, identify the individuals or group she intends to serve, and present guidelines for measuring her success along the way.

### NASH UNIVERSITY

Nash University offers young women (ages 14-21) comprehensive and inspiring educational programming that focuses on the practical side of leadership. Nash University meets the need and demand for training and education that focuses on leadership, self-reliance, and skill-building. The courses at Nash University incorporate the current strengths of the Sadie Nash model by including rigorous academics, role modeling, and community building. Nash University offers courses under four main categories: **Academic college-level courses** (exploring topics such as human rights, the politics of elections, education policy, medical ethics, conscious capitalism, etc.); **Practical skill building courses** (such as public speaking, essay writing, standardized test taking, college admissions, financial self-sufficiency); **Emotional, physical and mental health courses** (such as stress management, nutrition, athletics, violence prevention); **Leadership development courses** (exploring different forms of effective leadership such as community organizing, advocacy, direct service, and creative expression).

### LEADERSHIP AT SADIE NASH

The young women of Sadie Nash formally engage in critical aspects of Sadie Nash's organizational structure including program development, hiring, recruitment, and evaluation. The young women have also created a Youth Advisory Committee, which sends full voting members to the Board of Directors.

## SADIE NASH LEADERSHIP PROJECT APPLICATION PROCESS

We believe all young women should have an experience like the Sadie Nash Leadership Project. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide this experience for everyone. In order to select the best-matched candidates for the summer of 2006, we ask that every young woman who is interested fill out a brief application, write a one-page essay, and interview with us.

The application process is a way we can get to know you, make sure Sadie Nash Leadership Project can meet your needs and therefore help you reach your potential as a leader. We are looking for young women who are both traditional and non-traditional leaders, and for young women who *want* an experience like the Sadie Nash Leadership Project. We hope that the application process will be interesting and fun! If you have *any* questions at any point during the application process please do not hesitate to contact us.

### WHAT WE ASK OF YOU

*We ask you to complete the following:*

*Completed:*

*Description:*

	<b>Application Form:</b>	One-page of general information about you.
	<b>Essay:</b>	One-page on someone you admire and why you admire him or her.
	<b>Interview:</b>	This is a chance for you to find out more about us, and for us to get to know you better.
	<b>Additional Materials:</b> <i>(optional)</i>	Please feel free, if you would like, to send us any other materials that you are proud of. Do <i>not</i> send any original copies of the materials (we cannot guarantee their return).
	<b>Deadlines:</b>	<b>Applications accepted on a rolling basis:</b> <b>March 31<sup>st</sup></b> <b>April 14<sup>th</sup></b> <b>May 11<sup>th</sup></b>

**Please send these materials to:**  
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Brooklyn, New York 11201  
(718)422-8664

