

# PROJECT PEACE

YOUTH COALITION • READING, PA

*Serving middle and high school students, ages 10–18*

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW.....

**Project PEACE** is a youth-led initiative launched in 2011 in response to the violent loss of four Reading students. Since then, it has grown into a powerful coalition of middle and high school students committed to ending youth violence and substance use. Through peer-led education, service projects, and community-building events, Project PEACE empowers youth to be part of the solution and promote peace, empathy, and resilience in their schools and neighborhoods.

## PROGRAM COMPONENTS.....

### ELECTIVE CLUB MODEL

Project PEACE is offered as an elective club during the school year, providing students with a safe, empowering space to lead and learn alongside their peers. Each group meets regularly within their school to explore and address the challenges most relevant to their peers and community.

### PEER EDUCATION & AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Youth plan and lead awareness efforts focused on:

- Substance use prevention (*e.g., vaping, underage drinking*)
- Bullying and violence prevention
- Mental health and positive decision-making

### COMMUNITY SERVICE & VOLUNTEERISM

Students participate in local service projects and school-wide initiatives that build pride, empathy, and civic engagement.

### YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Project PEACE emphasizes skill-building in communication, event planning, problem-solving, and team leadership.



### ANNUAL PROJECT PEACE MARCH

Each spring, youth from all six schools come together for a community-wide march to promote peace and positive choices throughout the City of Reading.

*“Caring for the needs of Children and Families in crisis, and preparing them for success in life, thereby strengthening the Quality of Life in the Communities we serve.”*



## SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE .....

At the end of the school year, Project PEACE offers a two-week summer camp for active members. The camp provides a fun, safe, and engaging environment for youth to continue building leadership skills, fostering friendships, and giving back to the community.

Highlights include:

- Creative projects and hands-on learning
- Leadership workshops and peer-led initiatives
- Team-building experiences and local outings

Transportation, breakfast, and lunch are provided daily. Youth receive personalized materials and a certificate of completion at the end of the program.

## PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS .....

Project PEACE is currently active in six middle and high schools across the Reading School District.

## ELIGIBILITY .....

- Youth ages 10-18
- Enrolled in a participating Reading School District school
- Interest in leadership, service, or making a difference in their community

## PROGRAM TIMELINE .....

- Runs during the school year as an elective club
- Optional two-week summer camp after school ends

## FUNDING & SUPPORT .....

Project PEACE is supported through school collaboration, community partnerships, and grant funding.

*"To educate others about the dangers of violence and drugs and to increase peace in our community through youth leadership, awareness, and service."*



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