

# Arkansas Youth Development Institute

## YOUTH WORKER ORIENTATION CERTIFICATE

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The quality of an Out-of-School Time (OST) program depends heavily on the abilities and professional training of the professional staff that work directly with the children and youth in the program. In an attempt to help program administrators provide staff with the necessary foundational training they need to be successful in their positions, the Arkansas Youth Development Institute has created the “Youth Worker Orientation Certificate”.

The “Youth Worker Orientation Certificate” is comprised of both required and elective YDI courses totaling 24 training hours, along with a final reflection activity that collectively, provide a good foundational knowledge base of the principles surrounding positive youth development.

This certificate is not intended to meet the needs of all youth workers and/or the programs in which they work. Careful consideration should be placed on additional training topics that may be required, such as training in child care licensing regulations, specific program policies, and more.

### **These are *required*\* courses for the “Youth Worker Orientation Certificate”:**

- Overview of Positive Youth Development
- Child Development *or* Adolescent Development  
(Participant has an option based upon the ages of the children/ youth they work with)
- Engaging Parents
- Age Appropriate Discipline
- Building Assets in Youth
- Conflict Resolution
- Cultural Competency for Youth Workers
- Health and Academic Achievement
- Maltreatment of Youth
- Working with Culturally Diverse Youth

Upon successful completion of all of the courses above, participants seeking this certificate will be asked to complete a *final reflection assignment*. To obtain more information regarding this certificate and the final reflection assignment, please contact Karl Benz via email at [kbenz@astate.edu](mailto:kbenz@astate.edu) or via phone at (501)660.1014.

\*The required courses total 17hours. The remaining hours come from your electives.