

# Digital Connectors What They Do

# **Raleigh Digital Connectors**

The City of Raleigh provides the Digital Connectors volunteer internship program for youth living in Raleigh. Digital Connectors is a nationally renowned program that provides technology and leadership training for young people, ages 14 – 18, from diverse backgrounds and neighborhoods.

The City of Raleigh sustains the program through strategic partnerships and offers practical and hands-on training through five modules of learning. Participants are required to take part in service opportunities that help bridge the digital divide through digital inclusion efforts. The City aims to develop a sustainable program other communities can use for preparing youth to succeed in the evolving digital economy.

#### **Program Logistics**

The Raleigh Digital Connectors is a nine-month long program that begins in September and ends in May. Accepted participants will begin attending regularly held evening sessions twice a week over the course of the program (4 – 5 hours a week). Through a combination of instructor-led training, project-based learning, hands on activities, field trips, and guest speakers, participants will complete five modules of learning.

- 1. Leadership Development
- 2. Civic Engagement & Entrepreneurship
- 3. Financial Literacy
- 4. Professional Development
- 5. A Community Impact Project (Presented at Program Graduation)

Through these five modules of learning, participants learn skills in 12 core competencies:

Technology
Personal Development & Self Awareness
Digital Literacy
Diversity & Inclusion
Entrepreneurship
Community Mapping

Coding Financial Literacy Workforce Development Project-Based Learning Teaching and Facilitation Communication



**207** Raleigh Digital Connectors Graduates



1,139 Computers Refurbished / Distributed

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4,182 Residents Trained



10,558 Collective Service Hours



#### **Volunteer Service**

Youth in Raleigh Digital Connectors serve as leaders, teaching their families, friends, and community to participate in the digital economy. Participants give at least 50 hours of volunteer service that is focused on bridging the digital divide. Some of the service opportunities include:

- Promoting digital literacy at community events with partnering agencies
- Teaching computer and internet skills to community members
- Refurbishing computers for underserved communities and individuals
- Performing humanitarian community service projects
- Supporting STEM education fairs and initiatives at local community centers

# Lasting Benefits

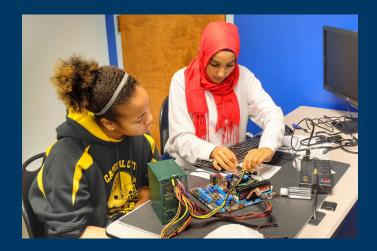
- Gain practical knowledge through five modules of learning and 12 core competencies
- Receive an Ever-fi Financial certification
- Lifelong connections and friendships
- A deeper and more engaged understanding of their community
- Opportunities to become a young leader and change maker
- \$500 Stipend (upon successful completion)
- New Laptop Computer (upon successful completion)
- Become a Raleigh Digital Ambassador!

#### Raleigh Digital Ambassadors

Upon successfully graduating as a Raleigh Digital Connector, some come back to serve their communities through the Digital Ambassadors Program. This program is a year-long commitment (July – June) that supports Digital Inclusion efforts and opportunities. Scheduled meetings are held once a week and a variety of service opportunities are regularly coordinated through the course of the program. You must have successfully graduated as a Raleigh Digital Connector to join.

# raleighnc.gov/community Search: Digital Connectors





# Learn More About Raleigh Digital Connectors

Go to raleighnc.gov and search Raleigh Digital Connectors

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