

SERVICE LEARNING THROUGH SPORTS

MICRO-GRANTS TO HELP YOUTH SERVE THEIR COMMUNITY

In partnership with The Allstate Foundation, the Aspen Institute will support youth committed to making sport more accessible in their community. Inspired by our **School Sports Equity Toolkit**, Service Learning through Sports is a one-year program that provides micro-grants and mentorship programming to select U.S. high school students who lead, or aim to lead, a project or initiative addressing an issue of sports access.

SERVICE LEARNING FOR A BETTER FUTURE

For school-age youth, service learning begins with organized acts of service for real-world challenges. The more that service can meet a recognized need and improve systems or lives at scale, the better. Leaders are born from such work.



IMPROVING ACCESS TO SPORTS ACROSS COMMUNITIES

Through **Project Play**, the signature initiative of its **Sports & Society Program**, the Aspen Institute learned that the supply of **sport opportunities** is not meeting student demand for them. As illustrated in our **School Sports Equity Toolkit**, motivated high school students like **Noor Abukaram**, **Ashley Badis**, **Matt Diaz** and **Rishan Patel** have shown that young people can take it upon themselves to create new sport opportunities for their communities. Their stories make clear that not only do youth want sport, but the act of improving access for others can produce meaningful service learning.



A PROGRAM FOR YOUTH LEADING THE WAY FOR SPORTS EQUITY

Service Learning through Sports will identify and support a small number of U.S. high school students who lead, or aim to lead, a project or initiative that addresses an issue of sport access in their community. Recipients will receive a micro-grant and mentorship programming to support their project, further their understanding of the School Sports Equity Toolkit, and develop them as future service leaders. The program includes:

- **\$2,000 Micro-Grant**
Through an affiliated non-profit organization, students will receive a \$2,000 grant for a sports-focused project or initiative that they actively lead.
- **Two-Day learning retreat in Washington D.C. from March 3-4, 2024**
Students will travel to Washington D.C. for discussion and brainstorming with the full cohort, a set of peer mentors and Aspen staff. Costs for travel and hotel will be included.
- **Ongoing peer mentorship, guidance and skill-building**
Over a one-year period, students will receive periodic feedback and guidance from peer mentors and program staff through virtual meetings for themselves and the full cohort.

APPLY NOW

Application: <https://aspeninstitute.surveymonkey.com/r/G9J2522> **Deadline: December 1, 2023.**

- Current U.S. High School Students can apply, including those in U.S. territories.
- Parent/Guardian consent is required for youth under 18. See application for details.
- Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Finalists will be invited to interview.
- Program period: December 2023 to December 2024