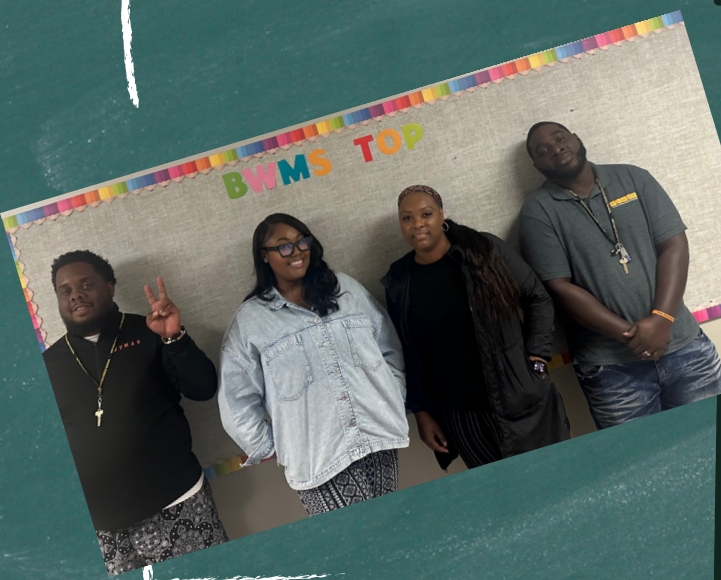


Teen Outreach Program

BWMS FALL '23 Newsletter



WHO ARE WE?

Granny (Antonia): Granny is the newest member of the TOP team at Brittany Woods. She graduated from WASHU and quickly found her passion for working with young people.

Zoro (Jonathan): Zoro joined the TOP team last school year and has not missed a beat. He has brought high energy and a great attitude with him every day as he dove into facilitation. Zoro is dedicated to being a positive role model to our youth.

Airborne (Raven): Airborne is the manager for the TOP team at BW. She is focused and motivated and ready to take BW TOP to the next level. Stay tuned to see what Airborne has up her sleeve for TOP this year!

Gambit (Chris): Gambit is a former TOP teen turned facilitator. He believes in the program, and it shows in his approach with young people. Gambit is a U-City alum and happy to be at BW. His goal is to make a difference in his community.

TOP Teen Outreach Program
W Y M A N

SEL SKILLS

- ☒ Goal Setting
- ☒ Empathy
- ☒ Communication
- ☒ Relationships
- ☒ Emotion Management
- ☒ Social Understanding
- ☒ Problem - Solving

What's Ahead for TOP?

This semester, TOP facilitators will work with young people to equip them with social emotional learning (SEL) skills they can implement in their daily lives.

As facilitators and students build healthy relationships, young people will be challenged to express themselves and be creative through various social emotional activities. Through these engaging activities, young people will also learn what it's like to work in a team atmosphere, how to be a leader among peers, and how to advocate for their social and emotional needs. Our goal by the end of the semester is that all TOP participants will not only understand the importance of having SEL skills for themselves, but everyone they come into contact with as well.

COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING (CSL)

As SEL is a huge part of the Teen Outreach Program dynamic, understanding community is one SEL skill we ensure students are equipped with at the conclusion of programming. The facilitators have techniques in driving home the message of community to the young people. TOP staff are determined in creating meaningful CSL activities. This semester, we have TOP participants volunteering in several clean-up initiatives throughout the Greater St. Louis area, elementary schools, and even CAMP WYMAN. We are super excited about our 8th grade participants having an opportunity to provide service on the Harris Stowe State University campus this Fall.

TOP facilitators also offer students indirect CSL opportunities. These indirect CSL activities happen during clubs and are connected to the lesson of that day. An example of indirect CSL includes students creating motivational cards for those young people at Children's hospital. We also encourage youth to get CSL hours on their own outside of TOP Club.



TOP LEADERS OF THE FUTURE

They climb.
They explore.
They connect.

They grow - as students, leaders,
and individuals.

WYMAN
LEADERS
PROGRAM

As you may already know, middle school students often experience strong hormonal changes that can alter their emotions. Without the proper guidance and tools, our young people may struggle with navigating new emotions. Due to Wyman's endless journey to help young people and their families in our community, TOP has been implemented into teenage youth settings.

In TOP, students are empowered by TOP facilitators, giving them the necessary information and tools to successfully regulate their emotions. In each TOP Club, students engage in Social & Emotional Learning curriculum activities and community service projects. For each student, TOP's expected outcome is to improve social and emotional learning and life skills, build a positive sense of self, build stronger connections with others, improve academics, and decrease risky behaviors. TOP is a three-year long commitment at Brittany Woods Middle School, starting from 6th grade to 8th grade, but it does not stop there. As it is a part of TOP's mission to better prepare young people for their future.

After 8th grade promotion, students are given the opportunity to become a participant of Wyman Leaders program. Students that are nominated will transition to a designated high school success coach, whose purpose is to guide students through their high school career. In this program, students will engage in a summer leadership camp, community service projects, leadership workshops, college tours, and career fairs. Since Wyman Leaders program is a nine yearlong commitment, students will be given the resources and tools to advance from teen to young adults.

Immediately after graduating from high school, our young people will transition to a designated post-secondary persistence coach. Since the Wyman way is "challenge by choice", we encourage our young people to continue to work towards professional goals, even if they don't take the traditional college route. During this stage of the Leaders program, young people are put in the position to start building their professional career and to establish themselves as young adults.

Overall, our young people's journey is bigger than the programs that Wyman offer. Wyman is just the start of developing a promising and successful future. While it may seem difficult to commit to a twelve-year long process, Wyman makes it possible to succeed while participating in programs. Wyman is truly the top of our young people's success journey.

At the end of the Fall semester, TOP staff will select 2 TOP Leaders of the semester from our 8th Clubs. The young people selected would have been showed excellence in TOP club from top to bottom. TOP staff will also encourage qualified 8th graders to apply for WYMAN Leaders.

WYMAN
125 YEARS