

## ⑤ Assistantship

Assistants are those youth who have graduated from the Youth Leadership Diploma program. They may assist at TA or KITS, in which case they:

- Must attend one Youth Intern Workshop each year (free tuition).
- Pay no room or board.
- Are given a set dollar amount.
- Are eligible for subsidy to participate in Teens Alive or Come Alive.

## YOUTH AND CHILDREN AT THE HAVEN

Since 1983, many thousands of people have participated in programs at The Haven. We have provided programs for children and youth since 1987, when Denise Goldbeck launched Dance and Games for Kids (now renamed **Kids in the Spotlight** or KITS). In this extremely popular and impactful program, participants use music, dance, drama, costume, props, crafts and games to write, produce and present a musical show to an audience of friends and relatives. Children learn self-understanding, mutual respect, cooperation and collaboration, how to support others, and how to contribute to a group.

In 1995 David Raithby and Linda Nicholls introduced **Teens Alive**, a transformational experience based on the highly successful adult Come Alive program. Teens have an opportunity to develop their sense of themselves, including stronger self-acceptance, by discussing issues of concern to them, speaking their own truth in a responsible way, developing empathy, practicing communication skills, including dealing with conflict, and becoming emotionally self-supporting. Teens describe this work as profoundly meaningful.

For several years, both programs have offered internship opportunities for teens, working with participants while becoming responsible adults and able leaders.

We would like to thank the many donors who have generously supported the youth leadership program at The Haven. Without their support we would not have been able to create the Youth Leadership Diploma program.

# The Youth Leadership Diploma Program

## AT THE HAVEN



240 Davis Rd, Gabriola Island, BC, Canada V0R 1X1  
Toll free 1 800 222 9211 • [register@haven.ca](mailto:register@haven.ca)



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## THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA PROGRAM

The Youth Leadership Diploma (YLD) program provides an exceptional experience for youth of a range of ages, backgrounds and talents. This program builds on and formalizes the many years of internship opportunities for teens that have been a vital part of Kids in the Spotlight and Teens Alive. The YLD program offers youth the possibility of meaningful volunteer hours to satisfy high school graduation requirements; opportunities for a positive working experience; support for moving into paid employment (including references); and a way to demonstrate extracurricular or volunteer experience that is valuable in applying for university or other post-secondary education. Teens with YLD program experience may take their skills onwards into adult leadership.

### 1 Youth Intern Level

At the **Youth Intern Level** the teen will:

- Be at least age 13 for the Kids in the Spotlight (KITS) internship and at least 15 for internship in Teens Alive (TA).
- If interning in TA, have completed both TA I and II as a participant.

The application process involves an application form (signed by both youth and guardian) and a selection process (with both the youth and the guardian for those under age 17) with Denise Goldbeck, leader of KITS or David Raithby or Linda Nicholls, leaders of Teens Alive.

Note that all interns attend a **Youth Intern Training Workshop** each year they are in the internship program. There is a fee for this workshop.

Students at this level intern in at least one KITS program (five days) or one TA I and one TA II program (six days), in which they work on communication skills, self responsibility, boundaries, support of others, and initiative.

Youth Interns ...

- Pay the full tuition fee, as if they were participants in KITS or TA.
- Pay the full fee for accommodation and meals (and if under 15 usually stay with their parents/guardians).

### 2 Volunteer level

Teens must have the skills of the Youth Intern level to become a Volunteer. Teens learn communication skills, and practice group leading, self reflection, and self responsibility. Initiative and a deeper understanding of social interaction are encouraged. New tasks are performed that open up new possibilities in their lives. Teens learn responsible attitudes and behaviours that support good employment habits, and conflict management. Overall, teens gain a profound understanding of personal process in terms of the challenges of human development and identity.

- Volunteers are eligible to attend one session per year with no tuition charge. Accommodation and meal charges apply.
- For additional sessions they pay the usual tuition, accommodation and meal charges.
- If 15 years or older they can stay in the intern accommodation.
- Volunteers attend a maximum of 3 KITS programs per season.

**A Volunteer Certificate** is issued once the student has successfully demonstrated the skills required at this level. A student may remain at the Volunteer Level for up to three years in order to learn and practice these skills. The Volunteer Certificate is accompanied by a letter with a description of the program and the number of volunteer hours completed.

### 3 Apprentice Level

To become an Apprentice the student must have good understanding of their personal process, have the skills of the Volunteer level, and have the approval of the instructor (Denise Goldbeck for KITS, David Raithby/Linda Nicholls for TA).

An Apprentice undertakes tasks in teaching and training the Volunteers and Youth Interns and works on skills such as leading group sessions, communication, conflict resolution, relationships, empathy, embodiment, and self-compassion, while exploring and developing his or her own identity.

Apprentices ...

- Do not pay tuition for KITS or TA.
- Do not pay room and board and live in intern accommodation.

### 4 Graduation

The key competencies and values taught in the Youth Leadership Diploma program are passion, compassion, communication, self-awareness, self-responsibility, empathy, and embodiment of the self.

In addition to the specific requirements of the Apprentice level, to complete the Diploma the student must have:

- A minimum of four Youth Intern Training Workshops.
- Internship in at least four programs (one program is five days of KITS, six days of TA I and II).
- The key competencies described above plus the following, demonstrated over time:

*A good understanding of their own process and ability to describe other processes.  
Ability to lead a small group for short periods.  
Responsibility in his/her actions, communication with others, and consideration of others.*

