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# Youth Civic Engagement Initiatives



*NEW JERSEY*  
**MUSLIM**  
*VOICE FOR PROGRESS*



# About NJMVP

## Who We Are

NJMVP is a grass-roots organization that aims to integrate Muslims into the social, political, and religious fabric of New Jersey.

It works by building a broad New Jersey Muslim coalition that is diverse, inclusive, and effective in collaborative action to preserve the civil rights and liberties for all people.

## What We DO

Empowering the Muslim community of NJ through civic engagement and community organizing





# Youth Civic Engagement Initiative Overview

- Empowering youth to take an active role in their communities through civic education, leadership development, and community service initiatives.
- Cultivating a sense of responsibility and commitment to social change, equipping young people with the skills and knowledge needed to address local challenges.
- Fostering a culture of civic engagement among youth, promoting participation in democratic processes and advocating for positive societal transformation.





# Why Civic Engagement Matters

- Civic engagement empowers youth by giving them a voice in decision-making processes and allowing them to advocate for causes they are passionate about.
- Participation in civic activities helps young individuals drive social change, creating a more inclusive and equitable society for all members.
- Engaging in civic activities teaches young people valuable skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork, essential for active citizenship and a robust democracy.



# Icebreaker

## Activity



**Participants briefly share your experience, if any with civic engagement**

What motivated you to become involved?

What challenges have you faced?

What successes have you achieved?



# Types of Civic Engagement Activities

1

Volunteering at local soup kitchens or shelters to help those in need and make a positive impact on the community.

2

Organizing voter registration drives to empower peers with the ability to participate in democracy and have their voices heard.

3

Planning and executing 'get out to vote' campaigns to encourage voter turnout and increase civic engagement among young people.



# Benefits of Civic Engagement

- Civic engagement improves leadership skills by providing opportunities for individuals to take on roles of responsibility and influence within their communities.
- Engaging in civic activities fosters a greater sense of community belonging, connecting individuals with others who share common values and goals for societal improvement.
- Active participation in civic engagement allows individuals to have a positive impact on societal issues, contributing to positive change and progress within their communities.





# Challenges of Low Youth Participation

- Lack of education on civic duties and rights can lead to a lack of understanding, contributing to disengagement among young people.
- Busy schedules and competing interests, such as academics and extracurricular activities, limit the time available for civic engagement.
- Apathy towards the political system can result in policies that do not adequately represent the needs and interests of the younger generation.





# Strategies to Overcome Challenges

## Promote

Promote education on civic rights and responsibilities in schools to empower youth with knowledge and understanding of the importance of civic engagement.

## Establish

Establish mentorship programs connecting young people with experienced leaders to provide guidance, support, and inspiration in their civic involvement.

## Create

Create user-friendly digital platforms tailored to youth preferences, offering interactive tools and opportunities for active participation in civic activities.



# Mapping Community Issues



**Activity**



**Brainstorm and map out key issues  
affecting your communities**

Group Activity in small groups

# Educational Opportunities for Civic Engagement

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Participation in mock government programs, such as Model United Nations, to develop diplomacy and critical thinking skills while learning about global issues.



Workshops on local government structures and processes, empowering students to understand how their communities function and how they can make a difference.



Access to online resources like interactive platforms and educational websites that cover civics, government, and social justice topics for self-paced learning.



# Mentorship and Guidance

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Positive role models and experienced mentors provide guidance and support, instilling a sense of responsibility and empowerment in young individuals.



Mentorship cultivates leadership skills, empathy, and a passion for making a difference, shaping the future of civic engagement and community involvement.



Through mentorship, young people gain valuable insights, knowledge, and networks, enabling them to navigate challenges and contribute meaningfully to society.





# Inspiring the Future Generation

- Youth hold the power to drive positive change through civic engagement, shaping a better future for all.
- Youth can make a difference by voicing their opinions, advocating for causes they believe in, and participating in community initiatives.
- Empowering the next generation to be proactive leaders fosters a culture of active citizenship and responsibility towards society.



# Join the Movement for Change

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Individuals possess the power to create meaningful change by actively engaging in their communities and advocating for social justice.

Joining a movement for change allows individuals to amplify their impact by working together towards a common goal of equality and progress.

Through active civic participation, youth can drive tangible improvements in society, shaping a future where everyone has a voice and opportunity.



# Making a Difference: Your Role Matters

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Recognize your unique contributions - Every individual has something valuable to offer in shaping a better tomorrow for all.



Voice your opinions - Your ideas and perspectives are important in driving positive change within your community.



Work towards building a better future - Take action, collaborate, and make a difference in creating a more inclusive and thriving society.



# Becoming Agents of Change

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1

Lead by example, demonstrating integrity, empathy, and resilience in your actions and interactions within the community.

2

Foster a culture of collaboration among peers, emphasizing the power of teamwork and collective effort in driving meaningful change.

3

Engage in impactful initiatives that address social issues, instilling a sense of responsibility and active participation in shaping a better society.





# Call to Action: Take the Lead



Get involved in local community projects to make a tangible impact and drive positive change around you.



Stand up for important causes by raising awareness, educating others, and advocating for justice and equality.



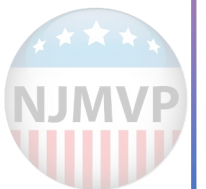
Exercise your right to vote in elections to shape the future and ensure your voice is heard in decision-making processes.



# Call to Action: Stay Engaged

Signup for reminders about upcoming election dates, deadlines, for resources, volunteer, internship and other opportunities:

<https://njmvp.org/stay-engaged/>





# QA & Feedback

We would appreciate it if you could provide feedback on today's session so that we can improve ourselves

<https://tinyurl.com/njmvp-cew-feedback>

Thank You.  
NJMVP Team

