

ARAS Pioneer Teens Info Sheet

July 8th to July 19th, 2024

ARAS Pioneer Teens is a program devoted to cultivating a connection with art and self-discovery by exploring the world of symbols. The program focuses on interpreting and creating works of art through an understanding of symbolism. The ultimate goal of this is to create an understanding of art that focuses on how you interact with art and how it relates to your own story.

Over the course of the program, teens will visit various museums, galleries, and artist studios to explore the many ways symbols shape the art that they love. In addition, teens will learn how to research their symbols at ARAS and will also create a final project that reflects what they have learned about a specific symbol and how that symbol has resonated with them.



Last year's teens describe the Pioneer Teens Program:

“It’s a program where you can practice and enjoy different styles of art with other students who have the same passion as you.”

“A symbol can be an object or image that represents different meanings. My understanding has changed by realizing symbols could have many different meanings, not just one meaning.”

“I love art, I use it as a means to express myself and explore creatively. During ARAS’ Pioneer Teens Program, I was challenged to consider the meaning and symbolism behind the art that I make.”



What is ARAS?

ARAS stands for the Archive for Research in Archetypal Symbolism. We are an archive and library dedicated to the study of the symbols that are found in the arts, religions, cultures, and stories from across the world. For example, our collection includes various books and files on dragons. In Europe, dragons are often perceived as dangerous and destructive creatures. However, in the Chinese cultural context, dragons are associated with good fortune. These meanings continue to transform as the cultures of the world continue to evolve and migrate. Even across ages in one culture, meanings of symbols can change so much!

What Do You Do in Pioneer Teens?

Each Pioneer Teens program consists of about eight to ten teens. This program is a great opportunity to meet teens from all over the city and to share your own unique experiences and cultural backgrounds as well as to find common interests in art, psychology, myth, and more!

On the first day of Pioneer Teens, we do a collage activity, for the purpose of discovering a symbol that speaks to you. In the following two weeks, we will go on field trips to museums and galleries, do research and work on art projects. There are usually a few workshops in various mediums so you can explore different project options.





Visiting museums and other arts spaces will help you to gather more inspiration for your project. You will also get to meet artists and educators who have great enthusiasm for their work and for learning. These experiences can be instrumental in developing ideas about what sort of profession or education that you might want to pursue in the future. These experiences allow you to see what it looks like and what is required to work in the arts.

The final projects that are created in the Pioneer Teens program reflect the amazing amount of internal work and self discovery that the teens do over the course of the program. On the final day, the teens present their projects to each other with a written artist's statement that captures their research and reflection.



Applying to Pioneer Teens:

This program is free. Lunch will be provided on Monday July 8th and Friday July 19th.

Applications are due May 1st.

Here is the link to apply: <https://forms.gle/2sD-5QayJCcG7nXv26>