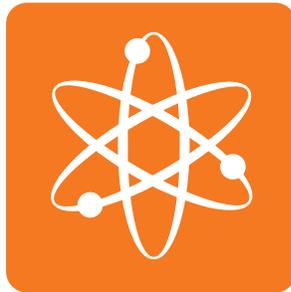


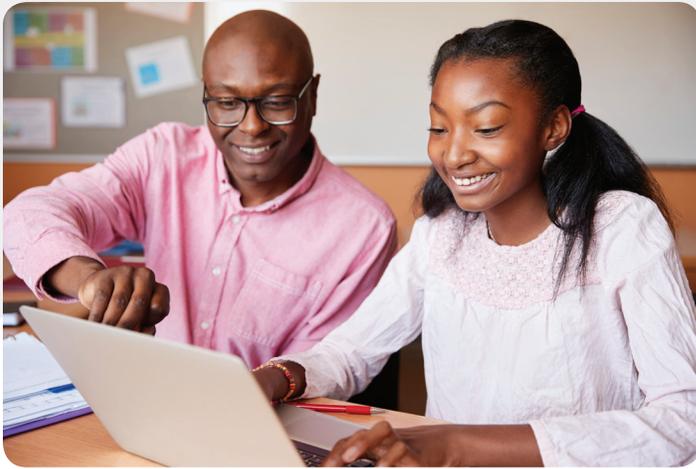


LINKS 2 LEARNING



**SOUTH ORLANDO YMCA
TEEN PROGRAM**

SOUTH ORLANDO YMCA
**YOUR BRIGHT FUTURE
STARTS TODAY**
LINKS 2 LEARNING • TEEN PROGRAM



LOOKING FORWARD

Links 2 Learning (L2L) is a teen program at the South Orlando YMCA Family Center, established in partnership with Lockheed Martin. The out-of-school program is designed to create new opportunities for local middle and high school students.

The L2L program engages more than 100 students from the

surrounding community during the academic school year, and equips them with the skills they need to build a brighter future.

Every L2L activity incorporates functions of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), such as logic, analytical thinking and problem solving. Additional program components include industry field trips, college tours, guest speakers and community service projects.

PROGRAM INFO

- **Hours of Operation: Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday, 2:30–6:00 PM & Wednesday 1:30–6:00 PM**
- **Free program for middle and high school students**
- **Pre-registration and parent approval required**

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

L2L uses four key components: education, life skills, career development and social responsibility, to bolster a creative and interactive learning environment that empowers life-long success in and out of the classroom for every student.



EDUCATION

Technology is everywhere! It is in our schools, our homes, our places of business and it is one of the fastest emerging industries in the world. Yet, the industry drastically lacks minority representation as developers. Through L2L, we educate teens beyond simply playing the role of the technological consumer, but the role of a developer in today's digital market place.



LIFE SKILLS

Developing positive life skills to navigate through both personal and professional opportunities is a critical component to students thriving. L2L helps students enhance their problem solving skills, communication skills, and build character to develop into a better prepared, more productive and positive contributor to society.



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Where many see high school graduation as a milestone, our expectation extends to post-secondary education to ensure students create an appetite for life-long learning, ultimately resulting in better career opportunities.



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

At the Y, we believe it is important to instill in our young people a sense of civic duty and the motivation to give back to their community. As we work with students to foster a love of service, it not only rebuilds the community, but it also builds a greater sense of self. We encourage students to develop projects that serve a purpose based on a need or issue that they have identified in their community.





WHY THE Y

OUR CAUSE

At the Y, strengthening community is our cause. We believe that positive, lasting personal and social change can only come about when we work together to invest in our kids, our health and our neighbors.

OUR BELIEFS

We believe that when we devote our full strength to the Y's mission and cause, work in partnership with others, and build on our history of innovation, we can address the most pressing issues of our time, unlike any other organization.

We believe all people have potential and promise.

We believe active and connected families make for active and connected communities.

We believe in a holistic approach to development, promoting healthy spirit, mind and body.

We believe that in a diverse world, we are stronger when we are inclusive and our doors are open to all.

We believe in honoring our mission, living our cause, acting in accordance with our values and placing a greater good above self.



OUR PROMISE

Through our multi-faceted approach, L2L accomplishes several key objectives, while addressing local community needs. This includes:

- Engaging a minimum of 10 role models to reinforce positive behaviors amongst students
- Providing students with greater access, understanding and skills around emerging technologies
- Fostering idea creation and entrepreneurship
- Developing a sense of personal power by allowing students to discuss local and global challenges and create strategies to play a role in creating positive change
- Serving as agents of change in transforming their community
- Providing exposure to post-secondary educational options, career opportunities within the field of technology and other business professions



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

To nurture the potential of every child and teen

Employability Skills

STEM-Based Projects and Curriculum

Skilled Trades

College and Career Readiness and Preparation

Youth in Government

Teen Achievers

FOR HEALTHY LIVING

Improving the nation's health and well-being

Y Sports

(Basketball, Creative Dance, Volleyball, etc.)

Y Golf & Learning Center

Emotional and Social Development and Support
(UCF, Local Hospitals, etc.)

FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Giving back and providing support to our neighbors

Community Service Projects

(Complete up to 20 hours toward high school graduation)

Mentorship

Special Events

Leadership Development

WHO WE SERVE: STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

Kevin is a Senior from Oak Ridge High School who started coming to the YMCA during our Summer Teen Nights in July 2017. When Kevin started attending the Y he was very shy, timid and reluctant to participate in any of the activities. Slowly, through the Links 2 Learning program and his involvement in the Y, Kevin became comfortable with the Y staff and other students. Kevin volunteered at our Fall Festival and mentioned, "It was never something I would have ever done before. But it was fun and I learned a lot and can't wait to volunteer at the next event." Not only did Kevin volunteer, but he led a team to build and create the haunted house, one of the main attractions at our Fall Festival that the community looks forward to each year.



When asked how the Y has changed him, Kevin answered, "It has made me more confident. Before, I would care what others thought of me. Now, I realize that it's ok to be who I am and that I have found some true friends that don't judge me. I am so appreciative of the Y because it is a safe place where I can be myself and be with my friends."

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

By supporting L2L, you are giving youth the opportunity to build their own road to success. The South Orlando YMCA Family Center is seeking partners to enhance the curriculum by providing workshops, one-on-one and group mentorship, industry tours, job shadowing and financial support.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Every volunteer is part of the lifeblood of our community work. While each may demonstrate unique ways and varied amounts of engagement, our role is to connect you to meaningful opportunities that allow you to utilize your expertise and passion while strengthening community.

Volunteers will serve as inspiring models of success for students, committed to helping them increase their likelihood for college, career and life-long success, by demonstrating the benefits of hard work, service, professionalism, integrity, educational achievement and community involvement.



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Financial support of the L2L program will assist the Y in providing programs and services that support young people to stay engaged in positive out of school programming. With the support of our corporate sponsors, the opportunities for the young people we serve can become real and life changing.

To take advantage of one of our opportunities to transform a young person's life, please contact Jocelyn Boyd, District Executive Director, at jboyd@cfymca.org.

LINKS 2 LEARNING IS MADE POSSIBLE BY OUR GENEROUS PARTNERS AND DONORS



YMCA of Central Florida, in collaboration with Lockheed Martin, piloted Links 2 Learning in 2011, a unique program designed to provide an avenue for community youth to graduate from high school by helping them improve their school attendance and grades through academic tutoring.

Lockheed Martin Global Training and Logistics Corporation, with other community leaders, partnered to create the program's central component—a youth learning center. The Lockheed Martin Technology Center is located within the South Orlando YMCA. In addition, the South Orlando Y was outfitted with the Y Golf & Learning Center, a driving range and putting greens with state-of-the-art technology that helps players gauge speed, distance, and angles.

The Tech Center is designed to bolster a creative and interactive learning environment that empowers student success in the classroom, including completing homework and improving exam performance.



First Tee of Central Florida is a youth development organization, impacting the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf.

First Tee of Central Florida supports the South Orlando YMCA Links 2 Learning program combining both education and sport. Progressive golf lessons allow each student to participate, whether they are a beginner, intermediate or at an advance stage of golf.

Y Golf is not just about the game of golf, but encompasses education, where we focus on homework help and our STEM program, along with teaching life skills and providing exposure to the academic options after high school. Y Golf Curriculum has been developed in conjunction with The First Tee of Central Florida. Our curriculum teaches our students golf techniques and life skills to prepare them for the future.



**For more information contact:
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