

U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown

MBK OHIO 2020

Overview

Objective:

To provide programming and activities to address the persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color and to ensure that all Ohio youth reach their full potential.

Programming:

The 11 MBK Ohio Chapters currently operating each have their own unique focus and provide weekly instruction and programming for students. Senator Brown's office, in conjunction with Ohio State University, is collaborating to supplement this programming and provide enriching opportunities for students to gain exposure to various career opportunities as well as empowerment and advocacy tools.

MBK Ohio Annual Program Activities:

Book Club

Twice during the year, students will be provided with copies of books that address issues relevant to the lives of Black men. Students will have an opportunity to collectively read these books and then engage in a virtual discussion hosted by MBK Ohio. The first book, for example, could be, *Between the World and Me*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates, or *The Crossover*, by Kwame Alexander.

College Day

Students will visit two to four Ohio colleges to learn about their programs, meeting with admissions counselors, administrators and student representatives.

Emotional Health Seminars

Each month, we will partner with area hospitals for a virtual conversation led by Black mental health experts on issues that may include identifying

signs of depression, combating stigma related to mental health, teen suicide, and different types of trauma.

Legislative Day

Students will have an opportunity to learn about legislative policy and advocacy. MBK Ohio participants will identify an issue of concern in their community and work to design a means to address it. Students will be encouraged to do research—meeting with community members, their local representatives, etc., as they craft a possible solution. Students will have an opportunity at the end of the school year to present their project results at the statewide convening in Columbus, where they will also tour the capitol and meet with members of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus.

Law Day

Students will spend the day learning about jobs in the legal field while visiting a courthouse to speak with judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys, as well as the support and administrative staff.

Science Day

Partnering with the Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, for example, students will meet with scientist to learn about career opportunities designing and developing innovative technology to advance NASA's missions in aeronautics and space exploration.

Sports Management Day

Partnering with area professional sports teams, students will have an opportunity to visit and tour these sports facilities as well as learn about management and executive career opportunities that exist as a member of the front office. Ideally, students will have four trips throughout the school year to visit different teams learning about a different aspect of executive management at each one.

MBK OH Scholar Summer Program

Each year an Ohio High School graduate, enrolled in a college or university, will be selected to serve as a MBK scholar in Senator Brown's legislative office in Washington, DC, office for the summer. Scholars will receive a stipend to assist with housing and expenses.

In addition to the events described above, chapters are also invited to participate in monthly check-in calls, MBK Alliance webinars, and a convening hosted by Sen. Brown and MBK Ohio in Columbus at OSU. At the convening, chapters will hear from U.S. Senator Brown, MBK Ohio leadership, as well as have an opportunity to share best practices and discuss goals and objectives for the upcoming year.