



Rashaud Haywood

Academy Program Manager

High Liabilities

Gadsden County Youth Leadership Academy

Project Description

The **Youth Leadership and Public Safety Mentoring Program** is a structured initiative designed to engage youth in Gadsden County through mentorship, leadership development, and exposure to careers in law enforcement and public safety.



Rationale

Gadsden County, FL

- Overall crime environment is **high-risk**.
- Higher crime costs per resident than Florida average
- Safer than only **~23% of U.S. counties**

This **increases** the likelihood of youth exposure to crime and justice system involvement.

The logo for TSC, consisting of the letters 'TSC' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, set against a blue rectangular background with a yellow vertical bar on the left side.

Gadsden County Youth Leadership Academy

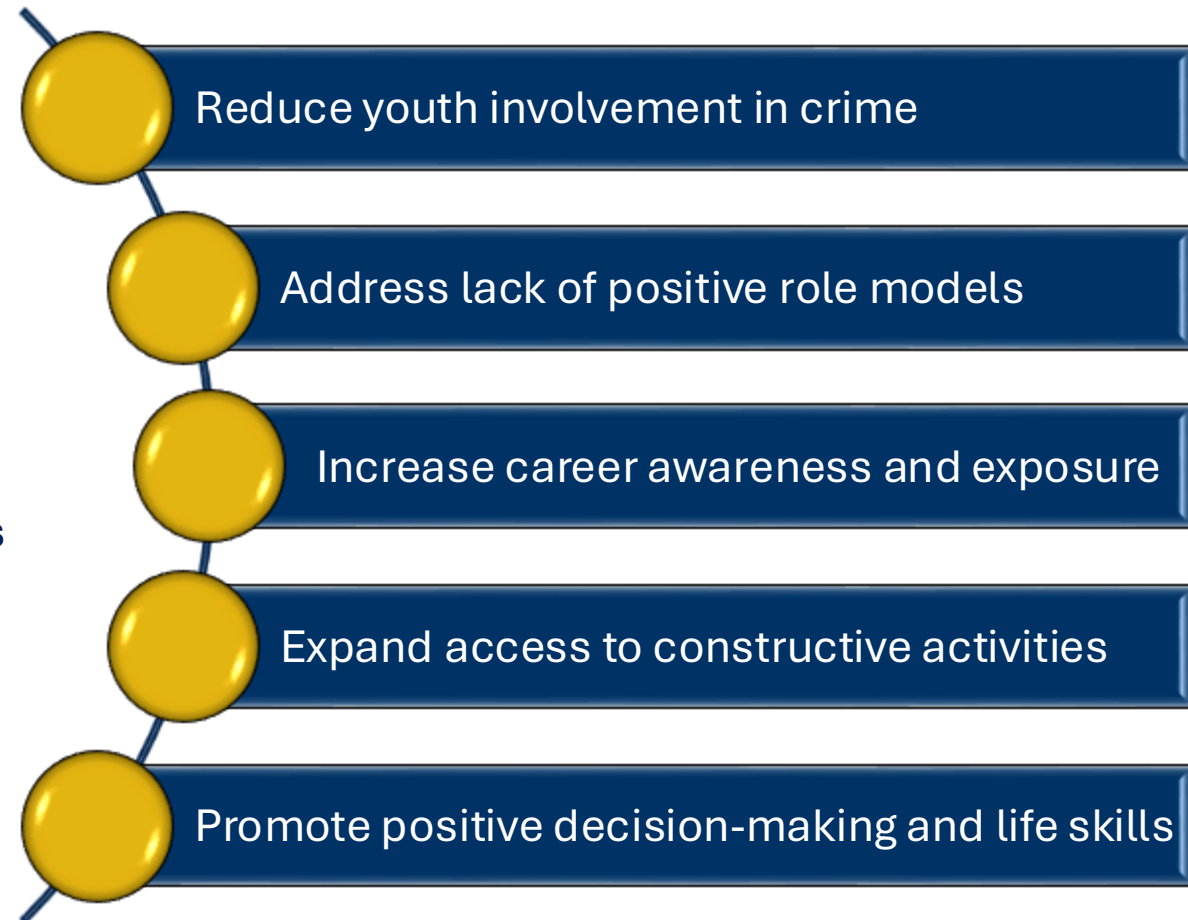
Gadsden K-12 Staff and Law Enforcement Survey

75% - Identified **Exposure to Crime** and **Lack of Mentorship** as top two challenges among youth.

48% - Expressed students **frequently** or **very frequently** discuss concerns related to crime.

~70% - Believe students **perceive law enforcement as negative** coupled with low trust.

90% - Believe a youth leadership and mentoring program would be **valuable**.



Timeline and Next Steps

1. **Spring 2026** – Community and Student Interest Survey Sent Out
2. **June 2026** – 20 – 25 students selected
3. **July 2026 – Academy Launch at FPSI**
 1. Two-day experience with keynote speakers, law enforcement, leadership activities and paired mentoring.
4. **August – May:** Monthly events, activities and mentoring check-ins.
5. **May 2027:** Final graduation and program celebration
6. **June 2027:** New academy participants chosen and selected. Expand mentoring network

