



Children's Defense Fund  
Freedom Schools®

# This summer 30 Somerville Scholars

Develop a  
love for  
reading

Have  
Fun!

Develop  
skills for the  
next school  
year

Gain a new  
sense of self  
-confidence

Learn they  
can make a  
difference

Be mentored  
by  
successful  
college  
students

Develop a  
pride for their  
culture and a  
love of other  
cultures

## All in a safe environment for FREE!

**Dates:**

Monday, June 30 - Friday, August 8  
(Monday - Friday except July 4th)  
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Location:**

Connexion  
149 Broadway, East Somerville

**Grade Levels:**

Completed Kindergarten—5th grade

**Typical Daily Schedule (Monday—Friday):**

8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast with children and staff
8:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Harambee!
9:00 - 10:20 a.m.	Integrated Reading Curriculum
10:30 - 10:45 a.m.	Morning break
10:45 - 11:45 a.m.	Integrated Reading Curriculum
11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Drop Everything and Read
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch with children
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Afternoon activities
3:00 p.m.	Dismissal

**Registration Priority Deadline: May 30, 2014**

*For more information:*

• *check out [connexionumc.org](http://connexionumc.org) • e-mail [justin@connexionumc.org](mailto:justin@connexionumc.org) • call 617-776-4172*

## What's CDF Freedom School all about?

### **Integrated Reading Curriculum (IRC)**

Reading is the key that can unlock the door to children's dreams and unlimited potential. Developed by the Children's Defense Fund, IRC engaged children in developmentally appropriate books that relate to the scholars' authentic history, culture and heritage. Through six weeks of lesson plans anchored around the theme, *"I can make a difference in myself, my family, my community, my country and my world with hope, education and action,"* children are motivated, stimulated, and inspired to become better readers. Scholars take their IRC books home with them weekly to build personal libraries.

### **Servant Leader Interns**

Servant Leader Interns are college students and recent college graduates with the passion and commitment to be a role model in the life of a child. Working with a group of ten scholars, interns serve as teachers during classroom activities and mentors through their scholars' time in Freedom School. Interns receive a week full of training on curriculum delivery, youth development, and classroom management prior to working in Freedom School.

### **Harambee**

Harambee is an energetic, fun-filled time to celebrate and affirm each participant. It also includes a visiting community guest who reads to the children.

### **Parent Engagement**

Parents are the most important partner in their children's education. *CDF Freedom School* programs support parent involvement through weekly parent workshops and volunteer opportunities. Parents attend the closing ceremony, called Finale, at the end of Freedom School to see their children's accomplishments from the summer.

### **Community Engagement**

Freedom School scholars are taught to put their literacy into action in the world through the Integrated Reading Curriculum. Each summer over 9,000 scholars participating in CDF Freedom School programs across the country celebrate a National Day of Social Action. Each site finds ways to take action on the same national issue. This year's issue will be voter registration.

## What organization is bringing CDF Freedom Schools to Somerville?

We're a local church connected with The United Methodist Church that has been in the community for over 100 years. Two years ago we realized our grand building was a stumbling block to reaching people in Somerville. We sold the building and now are on a journey to reconnect with the community we've called home all these years. We're renovating the former Mudflat Pottery School on Broadway to be our new home for both worship and community programs including Freedom School. Our new name is Connexion.

## Will the Freedom School include anything religious (prayer, worship, bible study)?

The short answer is **no**. While we're clear about who we are as a church, we're also clear that our community programs are meant to benefit the community at large. Our denomination has a tradition of helping all people. Boston University was founded by individuals from our denomination. Through the United Methodist Committee on Relief, disasters around the world are met with high-quality humanitarian aid without regard to nationality or faith tradition. Our CDF Freedom School will be no different. We will not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, ability, nationality, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Given the mission of our program, we will give preference to families who are economically challenged.