



Youth Action Council Application Packet

Dear Applicants,

Thank you for your interest in the I Am My Sister Youth Action Council!

Our Youth Action Council is a youth service movement igniting the power of all youth to make their mark on their community. Our mission is to **inspire, equip, and mobilize** youth to take action that changes the world and themselves through service.

This isn't just any action council, the I Am My Sister National Youth Action Council is a service-learning and leadership development program comprised of outstanding youth from across the country. These young people are the youth arm of the Board of Directors selected to contribute to the growth and development of I Am My Sister. This also includes I Am My Brother, a project initiative started to support male youth. The National Youth Action Council members act as ambassadors and leaders for youth services in their local communities.

This packet includes a brief overview of board member roles and responsibilities, member requirements, and the application and submission process. We ask that you thoroughly read through the application packet. Both the youth who's applying to be a board member and their parent/guardian (if under 18 years old) are expected to complete various parts of this application.

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions regarding the application or process.

Kind Regards,

Youth Action Council Selection Committee

I AM MY SISTER YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

Corporate Office

P.O. Box 341267, Jamaica, NY 11434

o: 718.200.5376 | f: 888.418.9304

www.iAmMySister.org | www.facebook.com/iammysisternc | Instagram * Twitter * YouTube



About the Organization:

I Am My Sister is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to empowering youth to **LEAD**, **INNOVATE** and **SERVE**. Since inception, i Am My Sister have prided itself on implementing innovative programs and events as well as having the ability to stand out as a leader in the communities in which we serve. Our innovative program designs have allowed us to partner with schools, churches, businesses, government agencies, and public and private organizations. We have expanded from North Carolina to South Carolina, Maryland, New York, Georgia and most recently to California in just five years.

The goal of the organization along with “I Am My Brother”; a project initiative started to support the growth and development of male youth, is to provide programs and resources centered around leadership development, healthy relationships, beauty and body image, career development and entrepreneurship, community service and support, financial literacy, adolescent sexual health, teen parenting support, education and mentoring services for youth and their families.

About the Youth Action Council:

The Youth Action Council has three main purposes. First, it gives young people tremendous, meaningful leadership experience and the opportunity to learn about how an organization operates. Second, it improves I Am My Sister and I Am My Brother programs by making them more youth-driven. Lastly, it teaches council members how to use their voice, gifts and talents to make a difference in the lives of others. Each member has the ability to change their generation’s perception on life and the future.

How youth benefit from being on the board:

The action council gives youth valuable “21st Century Skills” by providing opportunities for youth to lead programs and youth centered events, and experience roles that they would otherwise not have access to in an organization. 21st Century Skills are those defined by business and community stakeholders in reaction to the real world concerns employers have about workforce entrants. Additionally, youth develop specific skills including public speaking, networking, organization and time management, planning and reflection, communication, critical thinking, adaptability, initiative, collaboration and innovation. All Council members receive community serve hours, as well as college and employment recommendation letters from the organization.



Youth Action Council Requirements:

- ▶ Have a completed application
- ▶ Provide one letter of recommendation from someone in authority at either a religious, business or civic, or community organization (must be an adult and not a family member) summarizing the youth's leadership qualities, and community activities (Ex: Teacher, Coach, Pastor, Supervisor, Club/Organizational Leader): This letter should be typed, signed and on 8 ½ x 11 paper.
- ▶ Be 14-21 years old
- ▶ Must be Drug free! (Tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, and other illegal drugs)
- ▶ Dependable, reliable, a team player, a willing learner, creative and flexible.
- ▶ Make a commitment to the Youth Action Council from July of the current year through June of the following year (12 month cycle may vary).
- ▶ **Attend meetings** (meeting schedules will vary based off of location).
- ▶ Participate in the projects and community events.
- ▶ Each board member must take action and host an education or advocacy leadership activity for their peers in their school, church, or community.
- ▶ Attend the MANDATORY weekend Training Retreat. *If youth is unable to attend the weekend training retreat, then we are unable to consider them for the Advisory Board.
- ▶ At times, there will be travel out of town that is requested of our Youth Action Council Members. We will provide lodging and transportation for travel. If your parent/guardian(s) are not comfortable with you traveling outside of the local area, then we are unable to consider them for the Youth Action Council.
- ▶ Being a Youth Action Council Member does require youth to speak in public.

Youth Action Council Roles & Responsibilities:

- ▶ Designing and implementing specific projects through a task force
- ▶ Designing and planning initiatives and activities "by youth, for youth"
- ▶ Acting as peer mentors, conflict mediators, or educators for youth service organizations and projects
- ▶ Advocating for an organization's mission - environmental issues, animal rights, homelessness, hunger, etc.
- ▶ Advocating on behalf of a specific group of youth on a variety of youth focus issues.
- ▶ Representing or speaking on behalf of I Am My Sister (in a community where 30% of residents are youth, shouldn't 1 in every 3 members of a panel discussing community issues be a young person?)
- ▶ Researching or making assessments and evaluations of current youth and community programs
- ▶ Creating standards and performance measures for youth services
- ▶ Plan youth events for fundraising or to engage the youth in the community

DON'T GET OVERWHELMED! We can make you an expert, but you must be willing to learn and do.



COUNCIL MEMBER APPLICATION FORM

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THE "YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL!"

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: _____

Previous Names Used: _____

Address: _____

If you do not have a home address, where do you stay? _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email address: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Ethnicity: White/Caucasian Black/African American Hispanic/Latino Asian
American Indian/Alaskan Native Other (please specify): _____

Gender Identity: _____

Preferred Gender Pronouns: She/Her/Hers He/His/His They/Their/Theirs Other: _____

Currently involved with the state Department of Children and Families: YES or NO

Currently involved with the state Department of Youth Services: YES or NO

Name of School: _____ Grade: _____

What is the best way to contact you?

Cellphone Texting Home Phone E-mail Other (please specify): _____



PARENT /GUARDIAN INFORMATION (only if under 18 years old)

Name(s): _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Relationship to youth: _____ Do you live with the youth? _____

Will you be able to help with transportation of your youth to meeting? _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION (If not the parents/guardian)

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Relationship to Youth: _____

Preferred Phone: _____

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

Medical Insurance Provider: _____ Primary Care Physician: _____

Does the youth currently have any physical, emotional, or behavioral issues that might affect their ability to participate in this program?

Does the youth currently take any medications? Please describe: _____



Questionnaire (to be completed by the youth applicant)

1. Why do you want to join the Youth Action Council?

2. What information would you like to learn and what skills would you like to enhance by being on the Youth Action Council?

3. What does youth empowerment mean to you?

4. In the past, I Am My Sister held workshop for teens, dance-a-thons, teen empowerment summits. What other type of activities and projects would you like to see the Youth Action Council do for youth in the community?



SCHEDULE AND AVAILABILITY

What extra-curricular activities do you participate in?

Basketball Football Cheerleading Dance Band Chorus Job

Other: _____

If a job, where do you work? _____

What time obligations come with the above extra-curricular activity?



Application Submission Process

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM!

How to Submit this Application:

Please complete and sign the application and attached supplemental documents.
You can **email** your application to yac@iAmMySister.org.

OR

Mail your completed and signed application to:

I Am My Sister
P.O. Box 341267
Jamaica, NY 11434
Attn: Youth Action Council

Please submit applications by Friday, June 30, 2017

***Please note that this application is part of a competitive selection process and submission of an application doesn't guarantee an interview and/or acceptance to the Youth Action Council.
Applications must be postmarked on or before June 30, 2017.
Late applications will not be considered for an interview***

Questions? Email yac@iAmMySister.org or call 718-200-5376



PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT AND LIABILITY RELEASE FORM

The Youth Action Council appreciates your interest in becoming council member. This form is intended as a means of informing and gaining the consent of the parent/guardian to allow their youth to participate in the program.

Please read carefully and **initial each of the following:**

- _____ I give my informed consent and permission for the youth to participate on Youth Action Council and its related activities.
- _____ I release the Youth Action Council and I Am My Sister of all liability of injury, death, or other damages to me, the youth/applicant I am completing this application for, his/her family, estate, or heirs, that may result from his/her participation in the program, including but not limited to transportation, and hold harmless any Youth Action Council and I Am My Sister staff, volunteers, interns, stipend mentors, or any other agency representatives, both collectively and individually, of any injury, physical or emotional, other than where gross negligence has been determined.
- _____ I agree to allow Youth Action Council, I Am My Sister, or any other agency representatives and/or any partnering agencies, including but not limited to, funding agencies and county departments, to collect demographic information and outcome measures of the youth/applicant I am completing this application for, to be used for research and evaluation purposes.
- _____ I agree to allow Youth Action Council and I Am My Sister to use any photographic image or videotaping of the youth/applicant I am completing this application for, taken while participating in the mentorship program. These images may be used in promotions or other related marketing materials.

By signing below, I attest to the truthfulness of all information listed on this application and agree to all the above terms and conditions.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Applicant's Agreement

By submitting this application I agree to commit to the roles and responsibilities outlined in this application. I understand that it is the policy of the Youth Action Council to require its members to show up and participate. If I fail to uphold my commitment, I may be considered for removal from the Youth Action Council.

Print Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____