

How to Apply for a Youth Action Council (YAC) Position

Steps:

1. Read over Job Description on back of this paper
2. Have a completed SALSA membership on the matrix
3. One letter of recommendation (attached) from an adult. Examples: teacher, someone at work or a place you volunteer at, coach, etc.
4. List of other activities/commitments for the 2021/2022 school year
5. A 1-page essay stating why you would like to serve on the SALSA Youth Action Council

Applications (including recommendations and essays) are due by March 15th to Allison. You can submit via email (salsa@helplinecenter.org), mail to Allison Schmitt at 1000 N. West Ave., Suite 310, or turn in during a SALSA meeting at your school.

Helpful information:

- Up to 5 students from each school serve on YAC
- Commitment is from August – May
 - YAC monthly meeting in the evening for 1.5 hours
- Applicants will be notified in mid-April regarding decisions



Youth Action Council Job Description

salsa@helplinecenter.org

www.helplinecenter.org

605-274-1409

Youth Action Council (YAC) members will be selected from current 9th, 10th, and 11th, grade students from Lincoln, Washington, New Tech, Roosevelt and Brandon Valley High Schools. YAC members must exhibit interest in serving their school and community through volunteerism.

They must be willing to represent the youth in their community by participating on a citywide committee that will assess volunteer opportunities for youth as well as the ability of the non-profit community to utilize youth volunteers. This council will actively plan service projects as well as assist youth in developing the skills needed to accomplish those projects.

The YAC team meets once a month. They will work under the guidance of the Helpline staff and adult volunteers from the community.

Youth Action Council members demonstrate:

- **Leadership potential** – Gain the respect and trust of their peers, be willing to listen to other opinions, and share their opinions with others.
- **Respect** – Treat others and self with respect during meetings and volunteer activities.
- **Tenacity** – Demonstrate a commitment to a goal and be able to follow through with the tasks associated with that goal.
- **Availability** – Must be able to attend at least 70% of all YAC meetings (Aug-May need to attend at least 6 meetings), 75% of SALSA meetings (September-May need to attend at least 6 meetings), and 20% of SALSA wide events (on average 2/month, so need to attend 4+).
- **Community Service** – Previous experience in community service.
- **Openness to working with adults** – Willing to respond to adult mentors.
- **Potential for personal growth** – Will use YAC experiences to continue to develop new skills, and improve self-concept.
- **Honesty / Integrity** – YAC members will maintain a high standard of personal ethics both while at SALSA meetings and SALSA wide events, YAC functions, during volunteer responsibilities, and in the community at large.



Youth Action Council Letter of Recommendation

Please return completed recommendation forms

- Scan and email to: Salsa@helplinecenter.org
- Mail to:
SALSA - Helpline Center
1000 N. West Avenue #310
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Allison Schmitt – Salsa Coordinator - 605-274-1409

Applicant's Name: _____ Grade in 2021/2022: _____

School: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

To the Applicant: This form needs to be completed by an adult in your school or the community based organization with which you are involved.

To the Reference: Please return this form in a sealed envelope to the Helpline Center or send via email. If you have questions, please contact SALSA at (605) 274-1409.

The individual named above has applied for the Youth Action Council (YAC) of the SALSA program. A YAC member represents the youth in their school by participating on a citywide committee that will actively plan service projects, meeting speakers, and SALSA celebrations as well as assist youth in developing the skills needed to accomplish those projects.

Name: _____

Title: _____ Work Phone: _____

School or Organization: _____

Please answer the following questions (use the back/additional sheets if needed):

1) In what capacity and for how long have you known the applicant?

2) Why would this applicant be a good Youth Action Council member?

3) What strengths do you think this applicant brings to the leadership role?

4) How would you utilize this student on a committee to help plan events, meetings, speakers, etc.?

Signature: _____ Date: _____