

# 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 2022/2023 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 15<sup>th</sup> to Thane. You can submit via email ([salsa@helplinecenter.org](mailto:salsa@helplinecenter.org)), mail to Thane Henschel at 3817 S. Elmwood Ave., 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>, grade students from Lincoln, Washington, Jefferson, 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 50% of all YAC meetings, SALSA meetings, and SALSA Wide Events. Availability for SALSA and YAC meetings will be weighted more than SALSA Wide Events when considering YAC applications. YAC meetings (Aug-May should attend at least 6 meetings), SALSA meetings (September-May should attend at least 6 meetings), and 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.