

YAC Overview



Youth building community through service, leadership and philanthropy

What is YAC?

Background: In 1997 the Southfield Community Foundation created the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) to promote the involvement of youth in leading community change through service, leadership and philanthropy. YAC receives financial support from the Foundation's Youth Philanthropy Fund which, through a challenge grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and contributions from the community, has grown to over \$600,000.

Mission: The Mission of the YAC is to empower youth to be change-makers in our community. As active participants in community service and leadership activities, they are building a better community for our youth and developing skills that will make them effective leaders throughout their lives.

Who? Any youth, age 14 to 19 who is living in, or attending school in Southfield or Lathrup Village is eligible to join.

When? YAC meetings are currently held every other Thursday evening from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at the Southfield 'Field Zone in the Civic Center complex.

Why should I join YAC?

Being a YACer has many benefits:

- Have fun with friends while doing great things for your community

- Meet new friends from different schools
- Develop your leadership skills
- Learn how to award grants to support youth focused programs in your community
- Gain valuable volunteer experience while earning hours for NHS, graduation, and college entrance or scholarship applications
- Design and implement programs to address critical issues facing your peers

YAC Grants

Each year the Foundation offers thousands of dollars in YAC grants to non-profit organizations to fund programs serving our community. These programs are often created and implemented by youth for youth. YACers review grant applications, decide which should be recommended to the Foundation for funding. It's a big responsibility, but a great experience!



YAC is Giving Back!

The YAC participate in many community service projects throughout the year, some of which include:

- MLK, Jr. Task Force programs
- Volunteer Day
- Youth Diversity Symposiums
- Emergency Relief Campaigns
- Anti-Smoking Campaigns
- Anti Drinking Campaigns
- Safe Night Parties
- Leaders on Leadership Series
- And so much more!

Making a difference that matters

For over ten years the YACers first priority for our community has been the development of a Youth Center. The developed a series of great plans, presented them to community organizations and boards to unanimous support recently accomplished their goal through a \$3,000,000 campaign developed in partnership with the Southfield Community Foundation. Their dream has come alive through the 'Field Zone, opened in May of 2009. Several generations of YACers were involved in every aspect of the campaign, design and development of the center. ***Its existence is a tribute to their perseverance and their ability to motivate a community.***

Diversity

The annual Youth Diversity Symposium has been come the YAC's signature event. Bringing together 600 high school students from the

region every year, the Symposium challenges our youth to look beyond their comfortable zones and begin to understand the potential that diversity has to enrich their lives on personal, community and professional levels.

What Parents Should Know

The Foundation understands that life is hectic and that you value your evenings with your children. We hope you will understand that by giving some of that time so your child can be a YACer, you instill in him or her values of giving that will last a lifetime. YAC is about creating the volunteers, leaders and philanthropists of tomorrow, something that will make every parent proud.

How to join YAC

The YAC traditionally recruits new members each year in September. Vacancies, however, occur throughout the year and applications are always welcome. The YAC strives to develop as diverse a committee as possible, so please be aware that otherwise qualified candidates cannot always be accepted.

Our current goal is to have each grade in each school represented by two YACers. In addition, we traditionally have difficulty recruiting appropriate representation from the non African-American communities.



Resources

- Overview:** www.scfmi.org/yac/overview.pdf
- Job Description:** www.scfmi.org/yac/job.pdf
- Application:** www.scfmi.org/yac/app.docx
- Ref. Form:** www.scfmi.org/yac/ref.docx