



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



YOUTH ADVOCATE PROGRAM

2024 YMCA National Advocacy Days

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The YMCA of the USA is excited to invite high school students nationwide to apply for the Youth Advocate Program at our 2024 YMCA National Advocacy Days in Washington, DC!

This four-month experience, culminating **February 11-14, 2024**, at National Advocacy Days in DC, provides practical, real-world experience advocating for policy solutions that help the Y address critical social issues in our three areas of focus: youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. As part of the program, Youth Advocates will:

- Participate in virtual training sessions and network with peers from around the country
- Better understand the Y's history, mission, brand, impact, advocacy efforts, and legislative priorities
- Collaborate with their local Y and YMCA State Alliances to craft an advocacy plan
- Learn how to work with local, state, and federal officials to advance policy solutions
- Meet with Members of Congress and staff to share their Y stories and advocate for Y priorities
- Strengthen the civic health of their schools, communities, and Ys

HOW TO APPLY

All high school students (grades 9-12) who are current YMCA members or program participants are invited to apply. Approximately 50 students (up to 2 per state) will be selected. Interested applicants should consider the following criteria:

- Must be a current YMCA member or program participant
- Must be mature, motivated, and comfortable sharing their Y stories
- Interested in serving as advocates and leaders in their community
- Passionate about representing the Y on a national level
- Past Youth Advocate participants are not eligible to apply
- Freshmen, sophomores and juniors will be given preference
- Y-USA is looking for student representation that reflects all dimensions of diversity.



www.ymca.org/yap

Deadline to Apply:
Friday, September 29th, 2023

Questions about applying? Please email:
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