



Youth Advocacy Council

A project of Health Futures of Texas

About the Youth Advocacy Council

Healthy Futures of Texas (HFTX) is a San Antonio based non-profit organization working to reduce teen and unplanned pregnancy by providing health education to parents and teens through school districts and various community organizations. The **Youth Advocacy Council (YAC)**, a project of HFTX, empowers San Antonio area teens to become leaders of change in their community regarding sexual health education and teen pregnancy prevention through civic participation at the local and state level.

Why advocacy and teen pregnancy prevention?

- ❖ Bring awareness to the challenges that involve adolescents and their livelihood.
- ❖ Garner support for factual information & science-based approaches regarding sexual health education.
- ❖ Advocate for evidence-based, medically-accurate sexual health education in Texas schools.
- ❖ Advocate for increased funding and greater access to health care to ensure young people are equipped to make healthy decisions about their own reproductive health.

Youth Advocacy Council membership benefits:

- ❖ Be a leader of change
- ❖ Learn about teen sexual health
- ❖ Meet other San Antonio teens
- ❖ Fulfill community service hours
- ❖ Earn monthly stipends
- ❖ Meet Elected Officials
- ❖ Share your story & voice your opinions
- ❖ Increase skills in advocacy & public speaking
- ❖ Represent your peers
- ❖ Add to your college portfolio

Youth Advocacy Council eligibility criteria:

- ❖ High school teen in grades 9-12
- ❖ Minimum of C average in all classes (attach a copy of your most recent report card)
- ❖ Complete YAC Application
- ❖ Parent Permission Slip
- ❖ Participate in Panel Interview

A successful YAC member:

- ❖ Is able to attend YAC activities, including meetings, retreats, events, community service, and conferences 2-3 times per month (one week day, and one Saturday of the month)
- ❖ Is responsible for managing time, academics, and extracurricular activities while being on the Council
- ❖ Has an interest in teen pregnancy prevention, youth activism, and speaking up for teen issues

Application Deadline: Postmark, email, or hand-deliver by **May 5, 2017**



Youth Advocacy Council Application

Name: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

Mailing Address: _____
Street City Zip Code

Email Address: _____ **Gender:** Male Female **Shirt Size:** _____

School: _____ **Grade level in 2017-18:** _____

Best Phone #: _____ **Is it okay to text you?** Y / N

How did you hear about the Youth Advocacy Council? _____

1. Why do you want to be a member of the Youth Advocacy Council? What do you hope to contribute?

2. Being a YAC member is a big time commitment. We meet 2-3 times each month during the school year. Carefully consider this commitment; YAC Advisors expect you to attend all activities and remain an active member for the duration of the school year. Use the table below to list any extracurricular activities (sports/clubs/jobs) or volunteer/community service activities that you participate in. In the appropriate column, list the approximate months of the year, days of the week, and times of the day that these activities will take place. You may attach another sheet if more space is needed.

Activity	Months of the Year	Days of the Week	Times of the Day

3. What three words would your best friend use to describe you?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____



4. In your opinion, what makes you a leader at your school or within your group of friends?

5. What do you hope to gain from being a member of the Youth Advocacy Council?

Your YAC Interview

YAC Advisors and Healthy Futures of Texas staff will be conducting panel interviews with all applicants from May 15th – May 26th, 2017. Please indicate when you'd like to schedule your 15-20 minute interview.

Location: Healthy Futures of Texas.

_____ During the week from 5:30 to 8:00 pm on: _____

_____ Saturday, May 20th from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

_____ Saturday, May 20th from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

_____ None of these days work for me. I can make it on: _____

How to Submit Application:

Email to jbalajadia@hf-tx.org or return by mail to: 2300 W. Commerce St., Ste. 212, San Antonio, TX 78207.

Send completed application, signed parent permission, and copy of report card.

Deadline: May 5, 2017

Questions? Contact Jamielynn at jbalajadia@hf-tx.org or (210)223-4589

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Healthy Futures of Texas - Youth Advocacy Council

Parent Information and Permission Slip

Your son/daughter is applying to join the Healthy Futures of Texas **Youth Advocacy Council (YAC)** for the 2017 – 2018 academic school year. If selected as a YAC member, he or she will receive training in leadership, advocacy, communication and public speaking skills related to teen pregnancy prevention and sexual health education. Youth will also learn about the political landscape, locally and statewide. Learn more about our work at www.hf-tx.org.

YAC members are expected to attend all activities, including but not limited to: general meetings, community service, conferences, community events, and retreats.

After the 2017-2018 Youth Advocacy Council is selected, we will be holding an information session in early summer for parents/guardians of selected students. We look forward to working closely with you in the coming year.

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Phone Number of Parent/Guardian: _____

Address of Parent/Guardian: _____

Email address of Parent/Guardian: _____

My son/daughter has permission to participate in the Youth Advocacy Council, if selected:

Please Initial: **YES** _____ **NO** _____

By granting permission for my son/daughter to join the Youth Advocacy Council, I am also giving permission for Healthy Futures of Texas to use videos and/or photographs from Healthy Futures of Texas events that may contain my child's name or face.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____