



YMCA Youth Advisory Council, 2023-2024

Invitation for YMCA Youth, Age 16 and 17

We are excited to reintroduce our Youth Advisory Council (YAC) for the 2023/2024 year. All YMCA youth leaders, volunteers and staff between the ages of 16 and 17 years of age are invited to apply for a position on the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka's Youth Advisory Council. Youth Leaders from the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka have been furthering their leadership development through international experiences for almost two decades and have been providing direct input to our Board of Directors since 2012. This initiative is a key priority in our YMCA's Strategic Plan and our commitment to "Strengthen the legacy of our Y for future generations".

The Youth Advisory Council members will...

- ✓ Develop and build their leadership skills and self-awareness.
- ✓ Provide direct input and advice to our Board of Directors and senior staff.
- ✓ Represent our YMCA on an international service learning experience.
- ✓ Act as an ambassador for the YMCA in their community.

The Youth Advisory Council focuses on preparing a new generation of YMCA leaders who are ready and able to connect to people, organizations and opportunities that advance the YMCA's vision, mission, and values. The program's overall goal is to develop leaders who can help create inclusive communities that support the development and well-being for everyone.

Time and energy commitment:

- One evening in October/November for group interviews.
- Weekend retreat in November 2023 for team building & Module 1, location TBD.
- Saturday to Sunday commitment in January for the YAC Module 2 at location TBD.
- Full Saturday or Sunday in February for Toronto team building trip.
- One evening in March for YAC international trip information night.
- 10-12 days in April 2024 for YAC international trip visiting another YMCA – location TBD (Module 3).
- Saturday to Sunday commitment in June for Module 4 at Camp Kitchikewana.
- One evening in June in Midland for a donor appreciation dinner.
- Friday to Saturday commitment in following November (2024) for the YMCA Board Retreat and YAC transition weekend (Module 5).
- Meetings in rotating locations approximately every 3 weeks from November 2023 to June 2024.
- Other time commitments outside of the above list for project development, additional meetings may occur, format could include in person and/or virtual.

Cost

Through the generosity of a long time donor of the YMCA, the majority of the costs associated with the Youth Advisory Council are covered. Participants will be responsible for travel to and from meetings and events, travel requirements (passport, souvenirs etc.) and other small incidentals.

Selection Criteria

- ✓ Be 16 or 17 years of age by April 2024
- ✓ Have current or previous involvement in a YMCA youth leadership program or be a staff or volunteer at any YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka location.
- ✓ Be willing and able to participate in all modules and regular meetings (as listed above) in a variety of locations throughout Simcoe/Muskoka.
- ✓ Live in the Simcoe/Muskoka area.
- ✓ Demonstrates a commitment to the YMCA mission and values
- ✓ Committed to advancing the YMCA's Strategic Plan, specifically focused on our work with young people.
- ✓ Able to represent the YMCA locally and internationally.
- ✓ Have a current, valid passport or be able to obtain one by February 1st, 2024.

Information Needed for your Application

- ✓ Basic Information including your name, email address, phone number, passport expiry (if you have one) etc. and your past experience with the YMCA.
- ✓ YMCA Reference – the name and position title of a YMCA staff person who supports your involvement in the Youth Advisory Council, you will be asked to include the date you spoke with the staff person.
- ✓ Community Involvement – including the organization name, start and end date and a description of your role
- ✓ Your answers to the following questions...
 - Why are you interested in being a member of the YMCA Youth Advisory Council? What do you hope to gain from this experience?
 - What skills, experience and/or qualities will you bring to the YMCA Youth Advisory Council?
 - Have you previously had experience travelling or working overseas? If yes, please explain how this experience had an impact on you. If no, please reflect on how you think this first experience would impact you.
 - In your view what is the number one issue facing your community? Please explain.
 - In your view, what role could a YMCA Youth Advisory Council member play in addressing the issue stated above?
 - Anything else you would like to tell us?

Time Table

- ✓ Online Application form due October 22, 2023, application form can be accessed at <https://ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca/youth-advisory-council/>
 - ✓ A selection committee will review all applications
 - ✓ A group interview will be held in October/November (location TBD), applicants invited to the group interview will be notified by October 24, 2023. No preparation is needed; this is an opportunity to learn more about the program and for the YMCA to make final selections for the Youth Advisory Council.
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Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the 2023/2024 Youth Advisory Council. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Naomi Murray, General Manager, by email naomi.murray@sm.ymca.ca or by phone 705 526-7828 ext. 212.
