



Statewide Advocacy Training Program

September–October 2023

The Young Kentuckians Advocacy Program, or YKAP, is a statewide advocacy training program for high school students (grades 8–12) in Kentucky. As a hybrid program with 5 virtual sessions and two in-person, YKAP breaks down barriers of distance, providing a space for the Commonwealth's brightest and boldest young minds to connect.

Students will work together to expand their abilities to make a positive change in their state and local communities. Through an advanced curriculum of workshops, networking, and special projects, student advocates develop real world skills, and work towards real world action.

Learn more and apply at kyymca.org/YKAP

STATEWIDE HYBRID PROGRAM

YKAP is a program for students who want to make a difference in their community by sharpening their advocacy skills. Students will gain an understanding of public policy at the state and local level, build a network of peers and officials, and leave with stronger skills, better resources, and a more confident voice.

YKAP CURRICULUM

Over the course of YKAP, students will engage in activities that cover:

- Learning about state and local issues
- Developing skills in research
- Building advocacy skills
- Understanding government policy systems
- Special guest and policy expert visits, including mentoring
- Networking and coalition building with peers
- Building a resume of tangible advocacy work
- Working towards concrete change
- Building confidence in public speaking and communication

ALL ABOUT ACTION, NOT JUST TALK

Throughout YKAP, students will work towards tangible projects, including a written deliverable, participation in a student panel discussion, and a final project presenting a concrete plan to push for policy change in a topic of their choice.

POLICY ISN'T JUST POLITICS

YKAP works to connect with a wide range of students' interests by showing how public policy effects every aspect of our lives.

DEVELOPING SKILLS EVERY SESSION

Every YKAP session features at minimum one interactive workshop helping students develop a tangible skill for advocating for change.

A FUN AND UNIQUE LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

As YKAP breaks new ground to be one of the most exciting experiences for students in Kentucky, it also is a great opportunity for students eager to lead to step up to the plate. With fun and dynamic programming, YKAP embraces the joy of connectivity, and encourages that positive energy to grow and be shared across communities far and wide.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

YKAP 2023 consists of 7 sessions over the course of 2 months, from September to October. Each session is an hour and a half long, and sessions will occur every week. Alongside workshops, YKAP students will participate in panel discussions with community and business leaders and design and complete one advocacy project as an initiative to foster change in a community.

2023 PROGRAM DATES

Virtual sessions are 5:30–7:00pm EST

Sep 13 th	–	Session 1, Virtual
Sep 21 st , Time TBD	–	Session 2, In-Person
Sep 27 th	–	Session 3, Virtual
Oct 4 th	–	Session 4, Virtual
Oct 11 th	–	Session 5, Virtual
Oct 18 th	–	Session 6, Virtual
Oct 21 st , Time TBD	–	Final Session, In-Person

APPLICATION AND COST

YKAP is a competitive, application-based program, and with a limited capacity. We are looking for a diverse pool of candidates, and one that is representative of Kentucky as a whole. Applications will open June 14 and must be submitted by August 21st, 2023, and announcement of accepted students will occur shortly thereafter.

Student Y Members – \$135 Non-members – \$150

YKAP participants will be billed once accepted into the program.

Scholarships are available for YKAP!

Visit kymca.org/scholarship to learn more and apply!

MAKE AN IMPACT

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION TODAY!

kymca.org/YKAP

KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION