

Kalamazoo Community Foundation

Youth Advisory Council Membership Application

The Kalamazoo Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Council (KZCF YAC) is seeking applications for ten (10) open positions for high school students to join our cohort of youth leaders from across Kalamazoo County!

The [KZCF YAC](#) gives high school students a chance to build leadership capacity, connect with youth from across the county, learn about issues of social and racial justice, and to participate in equity-informed grantmaking with our non-profit partners.

YAC members have the chance to attend leadership development trainings, volunteer, travel to an annual youth leadership conference, attend site visits to our partner organizations, and participate in fun, team-building activities. Since COVID-19, our group has been meeting virtually and some of our normal activities are temporarily put on hold. However, we hope to resume the full scope of our activities as soon as it is safe to do so. Bi-weekly meetings take place on **Thursdays from 6-7:30pm**. Meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice.

Below you will find a brief fill-in-the-blank form followed by a short list of questions. These questions will help us learn more about the issues you care about (or are curious to learn more about), your connection to your school and local communities, and what you hope to get out of your time with the KZCF YAC.

You will also find a brief list of optional demographic questions. As an organization that is committed to building a diverse, inclusive, and equitable space for youth across Kalamazoo County, we will use this data to learn more about the reach of our organization and our impact throughout the community.

Use the space provided under each question to share your thoughts and responses. You can share as much or as little as you'd like!

Applications will be accepted in both written and electronic formats and are due by October 1st at 5:00pm. The YAC Manager will follow up with more information after receiving each application. If you are submitting electronically, please email your application to Sandy Barry-Loken, Vice President of Grants, at sbarry-loken@kalfound.org. If you need assistance accessing or sending in an application, please contact Sandy Barry-Loken via email or by phone at 269-585-7263.

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Name: _____ Grade: _____

School: _____ Email: _____

Demographic data (optional):

Age: _____ Race/Ethnicity: _____

Gender: _____ Pronouns [\(what's this?\)](#): _____

Short answer questions:

“Social Justice recognizes the inherent dignity of all people and values every life equally. It calls for both personal reflection and social change to ensure that each of us has the right and the opportunity to thrive in our communities, regardless of our identities.” –Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership

What kinds of social justice issues/topics are you passionate about?

What kinds of social justice issues/topics would you like to learn more about?

What do you appreciate about living in Kalamazoo?

What do you think needs to change in Kalamazoo?

Based on your experiences in your school, your neighborhood, or just in general, what sorts of issues are youth facing in Kalamazoo (e.g. bullying, mental health, racial equity, etc.)?

Are you involved in any extracurricular activities (e.g. school clubs, volunteering, other YACs, etc.)? What are your hobbies and interests outside of school?

What sorts of things are necessary for you to feel comfortable and supported in a group setting? (ex. positive feedback, humor, respect, etc.)