



About YAC

The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is the Community Foundation's youth philanthropy program. The group consists of individuals (ages 12-21) from Branch County and Colon, Michigan. YAC is dedicated to effective grantmaking, endowment building, leadership, and improving the viability of our communities by involving youth in the visioning and decision-making process.

How It All Began

In 1988, the Council of Michigan Foundations (CMF) and community foundation members developed a proposal to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for the Michigan Community Foundations' Youth Project (MCFYP). Their efforts meant to do the following:

1. Expand the areas served by community foundations in Michigan so that every citizen would have access to a philanthropic vehicle,
2. Strengthen existing community foundations, and
3. Involve youth in community foundations through the creation of Youth Advisory Committees (or Councils).

To spearhead the effort, CMF received the help of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation--formidable advocates for community self-reliance and community foundations, and champions of youth. The Kellogg Foundation agreed to help seed the development of community foundations and, in the process, create a philanthropic training ground for youth.

A challenge was made: for every two dollars raised locally and placed within a community foundation in permanent unrestricted or field of interest endowment, the Kellogg Foundation pledged one dollar to build a youth fund--up to one million dollars for every participating community foundation. The Mott Foundation also issued a companion grant to provide startup support and technical assistance to emerging community foundations. As part of the challenge, each community foundation was required to form a Youth Advisory Committee (YAC--made up of young people and adult mentors--to address local youth needs, assist in fund development activities and direct grantmaking toward youth programs.

In just a few short years, scores of Michigan communities responded to the challenge. They have received more than \$47.6 million to create 86 permanently endowed youth funds, matched by more than \$100 million raised locally. Community foundations blanketed the state and over 2,000 teens got involved. The Michigan Community Foundations' Youth Project is a great success!

You, your generation, has the power to make change happen - to make our world a better place - and not just in the future, but right NOW!

Youth Grantmakers Summer Leadership Conference

The conference was based on former Kellogg Foundation's CEO Russ Mawby's original idea for youth philanthropy in Michigan. His idea was a three-pronged model focusing on

- Grantmaking: Increasing effectiveness as a grantmaking organization through a diverse board, more efficient project planning, and better leadership.
- Fund Development: Going beyond bake sales and car washes in order to build the youth endowment.
- Youth Empowerment: New ways to increase the youth voice in the community.



Policies

Becoming a Member

- Prospective members must complete the YAC application.
- Applicants will be invited to an interview, which will NOT take place the same day as a regularly scheduled YAC meeting.
 - At each meeting, YAC will review any new applications and vote on whether to offer each applicant an interview. At this time, YAC will also vote on an interview committee, which must include at least 2 officers and at least 1 advisor.
 - Applicants selected for an interview will be emailed by a member of the interview committee to establish a time and location for the interview.
 - Immediately prior to the interview, YAC members may meet with the interview committee to discuss the applications and brainstorm questions.
- New members will be selected/approved by the interview committee from the pool of prospective members who have otherwise met the requisite criteria established in this section. The committee will notify the new members and invite them to the next meeting.
- YAC will be limited to 15 members.
 - This limit may be amended if a majority of the group agrees to admit additional members.
 - In selecting new members, YAC and the interview committee should prioritize applicants who will diversify the membership of YAC and applicants who are underclassmen.

Attendance

- YAC members who miss 3 meetings will be removed from the group.
 - After 1 absence, absent members will receive a notification/reminder email.
 - After 2 absences, absent members will receive a notification/reminder letter in the mail.
 - After 3 absences, YAC members will evaluate the member's attendance record and vote on removing the member from the group. If removed, the absent member will receive a notification letter in the mail.

- Acceptable excuses for absences include illness, family emergencies, and participation in school-sanctioned events. Excuses may be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- Officers who miss two consecutive meetings will be suspended from their offices. The other officers will review the absent officer's attendance record and come to a decision on whether the officer shall remain on the YAC officer board.

Dress Code

- For regular meetings, all members must wear business casual attire (includes the YAC shirt). *Business casual simply means you do not need to wear a suit or dress. However, it does not call for casual attire such as jeans, athletic wear, hiking pants, and sweatshirts, T-shirts – except for the YAC Logo T-Shirt. This includes when YAC is out in public at a community services event or other venue. For these events, it is preferred that YAC members wear the YAC t-shirt.*
- For meetings involving grants, interviews, or public interaction, all members must wear business/professional attire. *Women typically wear a collared shirt or sweater with dress pants and dress shoes or boots. Conservative dresses and skirts are also acceptable attire. A man's option for business casual includes a collared shirt or sweater. Khaki or dress pants along with dress shoes make up business/professional outfit.*

Officer Qualifications

- Any YAC member who has been on the Council for at least one year is eligible to be an officer.
- YAC officers for the following year will be elected at the final YAC meeting of the current year.

We all need to set clear, appropriate boundaries between family life and outside activities. In an effort to communicate during times that will not interfere with sleep or family activities, we have set the following guidelines for phone calls and texting.

Phone Calls and Texting

The Community Foundation staff will only call or text between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. We ask that YAC members only call or text YAC Advisors and other YAC members between those hours as well.

Emails and Facebook Posts

Emails and Facebook posts may occur at any time.

Family Text and Phone Rules

If parents and families of YAC members have phone or texting rules that differ from the above, please contact us.

Contacts

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