



Name: Cameron Temple		Past YAC Member: Yes	
Residence: St. Petersburg	School: St. Petersburg High School		Grade: Junior
How did you hear about YAC?			
Friends or Family			
Why do you want to join YAC?			
I served as the Parks and Conservation Resources representative in the past, and I hope to continue serving in YAC as President. I found my experience in the first year very eye-opening to how the programs operates.			
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?			
By being president of a 4-H organization, I am eligible for Boys' State, a civics program run by the American Legion which includes mock congressional sessions and gubernatorial elections.			
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?			
My resume is in its respective space.			
Each year, YAC selects a service project theme based on a need in the community. For example, YAC focused its efforts on youth mental health needs from 2019-2021. What are some needs you see facing youth in your community that you would be interested in focusing on this year? Rank the issues below to most important (1) to least important (7).			
1 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education		5 - Economic Security	
2 - Healthcare		6 - Other	
3 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education		7 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion	
4 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change			
Additional thoughts/ ideas:			
How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?			
6-10 hours			
YAC is a competitive program that thrives off of student participation—it's made better when youth can dedicate more time to it. If selected, please rate how you would likely prioritize your involvement in YAC (out of your extracurricular activities):			
Second Highest Priority			



CAMERON TEMPLE

EDUCATION

St. Petersburg High School IB -
Class of 2024

GPA 4.27 Weighted 3.83
Unweighted (2021 - 2022
School Year)

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Florida State Senate Page March 2022

Completed a 40 hour week of
volunteer service assisting
Florida Senators in the State
Capital and observing the
legislative process

Youth Advisory Council 2021 - 2022

Participate in youth-lead
activities that benefit Pinellas
County by working with local
government officials. Elected
by my peers to serve as the
Parks and Conservation
Representative

Teen Court 2021 - Present

Participate in weekly court hearings to determine the outcome for first time youth offenders while learning the inner working of the courtroom and legal system

Kind Mouse 2017 - 2021

Served as President from 2020 and 2021

Completed two 40 hour summer internships working alongside the Kind
Mouse CEO in 2020 and 2021

Served as Vice President 2018

Volunteer duties included public speaking, creating and producing childhood hunger awareness videos for social media, coordinating events and fundraisers, mentoring youth volunteers, leading weekly meetings, office work, and food packing.

ORGANIZATIONS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

St. Petersburg High School Speech and Debate Team 2021 - Present

AKAdemy Pathfinders Program 2019 - Present

National Achievers Society 2017 - Present

Served as NAS Chapter President 2021 - 2022

Poynter Institute's Write Field Program 2017 - Present

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

St. Petersburg College Center of Excellence Achiever of the Year 2022

National Achievers Society Voice State Finalist 2021 & 2022

National Achievers Society Leadership Award 2022

First Place in Extemporaneous Speaking at the FGCCFL Novice Tournament

Jack and Jill of America Inc. Outstanding Volunteer Service Award 2021



Name: Kiersten Adcock		Past YAC Member: No	
Residence: clearwater	School: Largo high school	Grade: Junior	
How did you hear about YAC?			
Friends or Family			
Why do you want to join YAC?			
for bright futures			
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?			
connections			
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?			
I would like to get more social and learn more personal skills			
Each year, YAC selects a service project theme based on a need in the community. For example, YAC focused its efforts on youth mental health needs from 2019-2021. What are some needs you see facing youth in your community that you would be interested in focusing on this year? Rank the issues below to most important (1) to least important (7).			
1 - Mental Health		5 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education	
2 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion		6 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change	
3 - Healthcare		7 - Economic Security	
4 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education			
Additional thoughts/ ideas:			
How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?			
20 or more hours			
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Second Highest Priority			



Name: Jazzlynn Prater		Past YAC Member: Yes	
Residence: Pinellas Park	School: Hollins high school	Grade: Junior	
How did you hear about YAC?			
Friends or Family			
Why do you want to join YAC?			
I believe I can bring new inclusive ideas and fun to any group of kids; I would love to join the committee to better help spread love through Pinellas county			
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?			
I would love to gain more communication skills and being able to navigate the real world			
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?			
I am junior class treasurer, and I am looking to become a dermatology PA and I really love giving back to my community and allowing myself to be exposed to all different types of cultures and ways of life.			
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1 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change		5 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education	
2 - Mental Health		6 - Healthcare	
3 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion		7 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education	
4 - Economic Security			
Additional thoughts/ ideas:			
Inclusivity			
How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?			
10-20 hours			
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Highest Priority			



Name: Hayden McEwan		Past YAC Member: Yes	
Residence: Oldsmar	School: Palm Harbor University High School		Grade: Senior
How did you hear about YAC?			
Friends or Family			
Why do you want to join YAC?			
I would love to join the Youth Advisory Committee to strengthen my relationships with out local governments and learn all about them. I want to be able to be surrounded by like minded individuals to help out our community through various long term and short term projects. I would also like to use it as a platform to promote my own ideas. Lastly, YAC will allow me to use my leadership skills and learn how to run a proper meeting by following the proper laws. This will help me in the future as I will attend hundreds of meetings with agendas and such.			
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?			
As I mentioned earlier, I hope to learn and continue to build on how to properly run a meeting. I also hope to gain knowledge about our local governments such as the problems at hand, how they find solutions, and how they operate. It is also nice to gain connections within the Pinellas County government and 4H members for all the opportunities they unlock for me. Lastly, I hope to gain the platform to put forth my ideas and messages.			
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?			
I hope to see you all this year!! Uploaded Resume			
Each year, YAC selects a service project theme based on a need in the community. For example, YAC focused its efforts on youth mental health needs from 2019-2021. What are some needs you see facing youth in your community that you would be interested in focusing on this year? Rank the issues below to most important (1) to least important (7).			
1 - Economic Security 2 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change 3 - Mental Health 4 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education		5 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion 6 - Healthcare 7 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education	
Additional thoughts/ ideas:			
I interpreted economic security as financial grants and help for lower income, and as promoting/teaching financial literacy to all. Some families who appear wealthy are living paycheck to paycheck because they do not know how to manage their money. I believe teaching financial literacy as young as possible is important, because many kids come out of college already in deep debt.			
How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?			
20 or more hours			



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Second Highest Priority



Hayden Reese McEwan

Personal Information

Class of 2023

Birthday: October 6, 2004

Intended Major: Finance or Accounting

Mother: Sandra McEwan, Mercer University; Pharm.D.

Father: Paul McEwan, Carnegie Mellon University; Bachelor of Computer Science and Mathematics

Education

Westlake Christian School 1551 Belcher Rd, Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Palm Harbor University High School 1900 Omaha St., Palm Harbor, FL. 34683

Skills/Academic Achievements

Cumulative unweighted GPA: 3.98 (as of 8/2023)

Cumulative weighted GPA: 4.55 (as of 8/2023)

SAT score as of (1/23/2023): Total score: 1340

Evidence-Based Reading and Writing score 650 Math score 690

Honors and awards

International Baccalaureate Program (grades 9-11)

National Honor Society (grades 11)

Employment

Volunteer Swim Coach: Coached developmental level (ages 5-7) swimmers on average of 2 hours per week

Assisted Coach in all aspects of the pool deck environment such as ensuring the safety and well-being of the swimmers, discussing swim strategies (accomplishments and goals) with students and parents, along with setting up and breaking down equipment, being a role model and providing encouragement to the youth. Led dryland with a group of 20 kids on average to improve their skills out of the water. This includes running, lifting, calisthenics, and stretching.

Athletics

Palm Harbor University High School Varsity Swim Team, Captain (grades 9-11)

Placed, Districts and Regionals

Palm Harbor YMCA Competitive swim team, year-round, 13 years

Senior Championships for several events

Campus Clubs

Investing Club, Board Member (grade 10,11) career preparation in business through academic competitions (Wharton Investment Competition), leadership development, and educational programs.

CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service), Board Member (grade 11)

Elected to contribute to the planning, organization and promotion of school wide events including heading up the workout portion of the IB retreat and launching a lunchroom staff appreciation campaign. Created, designed, and currently maintain the website for CAS Board.

Career Academy of Business Administration Program (CABAM) (grades 9,10)



A program through the IB program that allowed me the rare opportunity to shadow with J.W. Cole Financial and explore the business world on an advanced level. Raised professional dress awareness through designated dress days. Received an Office 365 certification in Excel, Word, and PowerPoint through the program.

Key Club (grade 11) – seeks to promote leadership and to service our local community by involving students with volunteer work.

Organizations

Pinellas County Youth Advisory Committee (grades 9-11)

Appointed onto the committee and directly worked the county board Commissioners while working on short- and long-term projects such as mental health awareness and toxic friends. Worked on the program committee and hosted, planned, and organized monthly mental health online seminars.

YMCA Teen Leaders (grades 10,11,12)

Leadership Development Program that provided positive relationships, life skills, college knowledge along with enhancing leadership skills and fostering personal growth through several volunteer opportunities. Appointed board member in 12th grade.

Junior Ambassador of Goodwill Industries International, Inc. (grades 11)

Leader for special needs individuals as they worked at the Goodwill facility. Served food and entertained the elderly while leading a Bookworm program, books donated to underprivileged children

Piranhas YMCA of the Suncoast Swim Team, Website Creator and Manager (grades 9-11)

Designed and created a website from scratch and little experience. Now I update and administer the web page each week for a swim team that has locations in 5 different counties across the state of Florida.

ToyMakers of Eastlake - Made toys (sanded and prepared the wood) safe for sick and needy children as an outreach (grades 9-11)



Name: Chante Nguyen		Past YAC Member: Yes
Residence: Clearwater	School: Countryside Highschool	Grade: Senior
How did you hear about YAC?		
Participated last year!		
Why do you want to join YAC?		
I want to help young people in the community to implement good changes for others.		
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?		
I want to gain leadership skills and equally important, teammate skills. I wish to use these skills and conversations we will have to help my own local school, as I know others will.		
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?		
Student Government President, Senior Editor, Art Club President, GSA president, Academic Team, Activism projects, leading community projects in Safety Harbor		
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1 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion 2 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education 3 - Mental Health 4 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change	5 - Economic Security 6 - Healthcare 7 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education	
Additional thoughts/ ideas:		
Advertising skills and creating unique projects. Perhaps fundraise for a cause we all are passionate about.		
How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?		
6-10 hours		
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Second Highest Priority		



Name: Leah Wissing		Past YAC Member: Yes	
Residence: Seminole	School: Largo High School	Grade: Senior	
How did you hear about YAC?			
Peach Jar (school flyer)			
Why do you want to join YAC?			
I've been on the committee since freshman year and last year I was vice chair of the committee and I absolutely love our local government.			
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?			
I have made many unforgettable connections through YAC and can't wait to continue those friendships and gain more knowledge this year.			
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?			
i'm captain of the softball team, I'm on the golf team, I am student body president, I'm also the leader of the ExCEL magnet program at Largo, I was vice chair of YAC last year, and I also attended girls state at Florida State University to gain more knowledge about government			
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1 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change 2 - Economic Security 3 - Mental Health 4 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education		5 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education 6 - Healthcare 7 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion	
Additional thoughts/ ideas:			
The environmental crisis of red tide in our county.			
How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?			
20 or more hours			
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Highest Priority			



Name: Libby Schmick		Past YAC Member: Yes
Residence: Clearwater	School: Osceola Fundamental	Grade: Junior
How did you hear about YAC?		
Peach Jar (school flyer)		
Why do you want to join YAC?		
I want to join the Youth Advisory Committee to continue to be involved in my community and work together with my peers.		
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?		
I hope to gain more knowledge about the structure of the government and develop team building skills.		
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?		
Outside of school I participate in Key Club, a community service organization, as well as the Academic Team and Tri-M.		
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1 - Mental Health 2 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion 3 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education 4 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education	5 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change 6 - Healthcare 7 - Economic Security	
Additional thoughts/ ideas:		
How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?		
0-5 hours		
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Second Highest Priority		



Name: Lucas Gabra		Past YAC Member: No	
Residence: Palm Harbor	School: Palm Harbor University High School IB		Grade: Freshman
How did you hear about YAC?			
Peach Jar (school flyer)			
Why do you want to join YAC?			
I would like to become more involved and socially active in my community.			
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?			
I hope to gain recognition in my community, social and career skills as well as a more knowledgeable outlook on mental health, healthcare, and ethnic diversity.			
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?			
My career goals are to become a professional healthcare provider (preferably a physical therapist), the play soccer, taekwondo and am an active member in my church and its choir.			
Each year, YAC selects a service project theme based on a need in the community. For example, YAC focused its efforts on youth mental health needs from 2019-2021. What are some needs you see facing youth in your community that you would be interested in focusing on this year? Rank the issues below to most important (1) to least important (7).			
1 - Healthcare 2 - Mental Health 3 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion 4 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education		5 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change 6 - Economic Security 7 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education	
Additional thoughts/ ideas:			
I think that getting the students politically involved and governmentally knowledgeable is very important, because most of us will be voting either near the end of or after High School.			
How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?			
6-10 hours			
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Second Highest Priority			



Name: Liam Tieder		Past YAC Member: No
Residence: Clearwater	School: East Lake High School	Grade: Freshman
How did you hear about YAC?		
Past participant		
Why do you want to join YAC?		
To make an impact on my community, to learn more about my local government and to work with my peers to address problems.		
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?		
I hope to develop my leadership skills, make professional and social connections and leave a positive impact on my community.		
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?		
<p>I have wanted to go to medical school since I was in first grade. So, I am studying biomedical sciences, taking courses towards a Cambridge certificate and a Capstone project at Eastlake High School. Doing so, enables me to get a feel for what I want to study in the future.</p> <p>I have been a Legislative Page in the Florida House of Representatives which I enjoyed and made this opportunity especially interesting. It also helped me understand the governmental processes beyond what most people see on a regular basis.</p> <p>I have played competitive baseball for many years including winning districts as an All-Star team representing Safety Harbor Little League. I volunteer at The Mattie Williams Center, a neighborhood family center throughout the year. The Center does important work but is also personal to our family as the namesake, Mattie Williams (who passed away in 2012) was a chosen grandmother for me, my brother and my cousins. I attend sleep away camp for a month each summer which has expanded my network and enabled me to experience both independence and new things.</p> <p>In May of 2022, I graduated from the Eastlake Academy of Engineering with academic honors and a member in good standing of the National Junior Honor Society. I am semi-fluent in Spanish as a graduate of The Ridgecrest Center for Gifted Studies: Spanish Immersion program. To strengthen my fluency, I attended a weeklong residential Spanish Camp at Eckerd College this summer. In 2019, I accepted an invitation to participate in the Duke University TiP Program and completed a weekend institute at Rollins College. I also completed the Cub Scouts program in 2019.</p> <p>For fun, I like to hang out with friends, love all kinds of food but especially Thai, Japanese and good pizza. I am into music especially hip hop and rap. I am also entrepreneurial, buying and reselling items and taking on expanded opportunities to earn money including hosting a camp for my younger cousins. I am a fan of collegiate and professional sports, my favorite teams are the Tampa Bay Rays, Pittsburgh Steelers, The Lightning, and Florida State University.</p>		



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1 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education	5 - Mental Health
2 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education	6 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
3 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change	7 - Economic Security

4 - Healthcare	
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Additional thoughts/ ideas:

Juvenile Justice

How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?

6-10 hours

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Highest Priority



Name: Philip Skorewicz		Past YAC Member: Yes	
Residence: St.Petersburg	School: Clearwater Central Catholic		Grade: Sophomore
How did you hear about YAC?			
Friends or Family			
Why do you want to join YAC?			
<p>The Youth Advisory Committee helped me grow as a person and as a citizen.</p> <p>My experience as a first-year member of YAC taught me, about the government and infrastructure of Pinellas County. I enjoy learning about how my community and the areas of concern that need more attention.</p> <p>Last year we toured Weedon Island and learned about how the tides and the mangroves affect the environment. We also had the opportunity to plant trees along the Pinellas trail.</p> <p>Probably my favorite day of YAC last year was going to the sanitation department. The speaker was so informative, and I learned so much.</p> <p>Something that was important to me was making Valentine's Day cards for the people in the nursing homes. We were able to experience and learn about so many different organizations and government operations. I hope to continue that this year and dive deeper into these areas to see where help is needed, and how I can make a difference.</p>			
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?			
<p>As a second-year member of YAC, I plan on running for a board position. I have had the opportunity to learn and observe the systems and process involved on being on the board for YAC last year. I am ready to take on this extra responsibility this year.</p> <p>Because of my experience at Heritage Village this summer I feel I can gain even more from YAC. At Heritage Village I worked as a tour guide in the house of Seven Gables and the school. This strengthened my communication and leadership skills which will help me as I continue my involvement with YAC.</p> <p>I would gain so much from this experience growing my leadership skills and ability to form relationships with other members and stakeholders.</p> <p>I also quite simply enjoy learning more about Pinellas County's history and infrastructure.</p>			
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?			
<p>I am currently a sophomore at Clearwater Central Catholic. Besides volunteering, one of my favorite things to do is play baseball. I play on a travel team and on my schools JV team. I also love spending time outside. I also have my boater's license. This summer I was able to enjoy our waterways with friends and go fishing. I also have helped with many beach cleanups in the area. I would love to do something with sports medicine or history in the future. I also want to play college baseball.</p>			



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1 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change	5 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education
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2 - Other 3 - Mental Health 4 - Economic Security	6 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education 7 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
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Additional thoughts/ ideas:

I would love to focus this year either on environmental projects or healthcare. There are many paths to explore and help in either of these areas.

How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?

10-20 hours

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Highest Priority



Philip Skorewicz*



Education

Aug 2021 - Present

Clearwater Central Catholic High School

2750 Haines Bayshore Rd,
Clearwater, FL 33760
Grade 10
GPA 3.96 Honors

Volunteer Service

May 2022 - Aug
2022

Tour Guide

Largo, Florida
Heritage Village - Pinellas County
Government Program
Grade 9, 10
3 Hrs/Week
Total Hours: 15

Oct 2021 - Present

Member

Pinellas County, Florida
Pinellas County Youth Advisory
Committee
Grade 9
2 Hrs/Week
Total Hours: 6
*Study and experience county's
government and operations first
hand, leadership, and mentorship
from County leaders.*

Aug 2021 - Present

Volunteer

1801 16th St N, St. Petersburg, FL
33704
Kind Mouse
Grade 9
3 Hrs/Week
Total Hours: 3
*Sorting and labeling donated
product, repackaging bulk food,
packing "Mouse Nibbles" pack
snacks for delivery to food insecure*



families. Assisting with cleaning and breaking down recycling boxes.

**Athletic
Achievement**

May 2022 - Present

Florida Burn

Grade 9, 10

20 Hrs/Week

Summer Baseball

Sep 2021 - Present

**Clearwater Central Catholic High
School**

Grade 9

20 Hrs/Week

Total Hours: 100

Junior Varsity Starter at First Base.



Name: Ava Newberg		Past YAC Member: Yes
Residence: Largo	School: Osceola Fundamental High School	Grade: Junior
did you hear about YAC?		
Friends or Family		
Why do you want to join YAC?		
I want to join YAC because I am interested in learning more about the structure of Pinellas County and its daily operations. I also have really enjoyed volunteering with this group in past years.		
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?		
I hope to gain knowledge in the workings of city government, as well as gain connections to different Pinellas County employees.		
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?		
-Clubs/Honors Societies: FBLA, Key Club, Tri-M Music Honors Society, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honors Society, Academic Team, Rho Kappa Honors Society and National English Honors Society. -Extra Curricular Activities: Swim team, piano, and Girl Scouts. -Job: I have worked at Publix as a cashier and bagger for over a year.		
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1 - Mental Health 2 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education 3 - Healthcare 4 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education	5 - Economic Security 6 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change 7 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion	
Additional thoughts/ ideas:		
How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?		
6-10 hours		
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Highest Priority		



Name: Nysa Dhamani		Past YAC Member: Yes	
Residence: Palm Harbor	School: Palm Harbor University High School		Grade: Sophomore
How did you hear about YAC?			
I did it last year			
Why do you want to join YAC?			
I want to find new, effective way that I can help and contribute to the improvement of the quality of life for the youth of Pinellas County			
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?			
Through YAC, just like last year, I hope to gain more knowledge on the current status of the well-being of the youth and their environment in this county. By joining and being a member of YAC, I will be able to actively impact decisions made towards the positive growth of our community.			
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?			
I aspire to become a lawyer, specifically a criminal prosecutor. I am also currently a part of The Future Business Leaders of America Club, Speech and Debate Club, Mu Alpha Theta(Math National Honor Society), and Student Government Executive Board all at Palm Harbor University High School. I am also a student of the International Baccalaureate Program.			
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1 - Mental Health 2 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion 3 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education 4 - Healthcare		5 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change 6 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education 7 - Economic Security	
Additional thoughts/ ideas:			
How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?			
6-10 hours			
YAC is a competitive program that thrives off of student participation—it's made better when youth can dedicate more time to it. If selected, please rate how you would likely prioritize your involvement in YAC (out of your extracurricular activities):			
Highest Priority			



Mrs. Teresa Bergstrom, Ph.D.
Pre-AP World History Teacher
Center for Gifted Studies
Dunedin Highland Middle School
70 Patricia Avenue
Dunedin, FL 34698
(727) 692-9271
bergstromt@pcsb.org

August 22, 2022

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Nysa Dhamani as an applicant for the Pinellas County Youth Advisory Committee. Nysa was a student in the Center for Gifted Studies at Dunedin Highland Middle School and was my student for her 8th grade year in Pre-AP World History and Geography and Gifted Elective classes.

During Nysa's time at Dunedin Highland Middle, I spent considerable time with her. She is extremely goal oriented and a collaborative team player. She is keenly devoted to her work, but being a real people person, she is also quite enjoyable to be around. She always strives to her academic best, knowing that her dreams lay with excelling in her academic studies to achieve her highest potential.

Nysa demonstrated from early on that she understood how dedication and persistence are essential keys to success. She is organized and prepared for class. Her work ethic and determination to be academically successful led me to believe that she is more than capable of the demands of our Gifted Center. Nysa was admired and respected by her peers and faculty as a leader on campus. She has also played a pivotal role in giving back to our Gifted Center by being a great role model for not only her 8th grade peers, but also to our sixth and seventh grade student populations. Therefore, she excels not only as a student, but as a leader and ambassador of our prestigious magnet program.

Nysa's work was never less than her best. She continuously strives to better herself creatively and academically, all while balancing time towards her extracurricular activities. Equally driven by quality and with integrity, she has many personal interests that provide her with a place of solace, all while realizing that her core educational studies take first priority.

Above all Nysa's positive character traits, maturity is her strong suit. She tackles challenges with patience and in-depth thought. I believe Nysa has been successful in life through her ability to blossom, and encourage others to do the same, as a student leader of Dunedin Highland Middle School's Center for Gifted Studies.

In closing, let me say I have no hesitation in recommending Nysa Dhamani for the Pinellas County Youth Advisory Committee. I feel confident that she would be an asset to your organization, and too, you would be an asset to her constant academic and aesthetic growth.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Teresa Bergstrom, Ph.D.
Advanced US History Teacher
Center for Gifted Studies
Dunedin Highland Middle School
(727) 692-9271
bergstromt@pcsb.org



Name: Stryker Williams		Past YAC Member: No
Residence: Belleair	School: Osceola Fundamental High School	Grade: Freshman
How did you hear about YAC?		
Friends or Family		
Why do you want to join YAC?		
My sister, Kendall Williams, was a YAC member for the past 4 years, she encouraged me to do the same and loved her experience.		
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?		
I want to better understand our local government and help solve problems. I am looking into a career in public service after serving as a Page in the FL House of Representatives the past two years.		
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?		
I love to play sports, help others, and volunteer. I have been inspired by our state leadership in Tallahassee and would like to pursue opportunities that will help me become a leader myself.		
Each year, YAC selects a service project theme based on a need in the community. For example, YAC focused its efforts on youth mental health needs from 2019-2021. What are some needs you see facing youth in your community that you would be interested in focusing on this year? Rank the issues below to most important (1) to least important (7).		
1 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change 2 - Economic Security 3 - Mental Health 4 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education	5 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion 6 - Healthcare 7 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education	
Additional thoughts/ ideas:		
public safety		
How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?		
0-5 hours		
YAC is a competitive program that thrives off of student participation—it's made better when youth can dedicate more time to it. If selected, please rate how you would likely prioritize your involvement in YAC (out of your extracurricular activities):		
Highest Priority		



Name: Saachi Makadia		Past YAC Member: Yes	
Residence: Palm Harbor	School: Palm Harbor University High School		Grade: Senior
How did you hear about YAC?			
Friends or Family			
Why do you want to join YAC?			
I wish to join the Pinellas County Youth Advisory Committee because it is a fantastic way to learn more about the community in Pinellas County. It is also an amazing opportunity to actively help the people of the community, especially because the main focus is on current problems and how to improve them or how to make a positive impact. Additionally, I want to provide different perspectives and ideas that will improve the lives of the people living, considering that I moved from Seattle, Washington last year.			
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?			
What I hope to gain from my experience in Pinellas County Youth Advisory Committee this year is knowledge as well as opportunities. I am hoping that by becoming a youth adviser for this committee, I will be able to make connections by talking to and learning from government leaders. YAC would also allow me to gain opportunities in leadership and volunteering to help with community projects hands-on to make an impact on the community.			
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?			
From an early age, I have always been interested in helping the community by being involved in things like bake sales, fundraisers, and other activities happening. As I grew and matured, I got involved in more clubs and extracurricular activities. For instance, I joined the Red Cross club and the Environmental club through North Creek High School, the school I attended before I moved to Florida. At that school, I was also in the class council for two years! The class council consisted of five people from a specific grade level that got to make decisions and plans for fundraisers within the school and promote meeting new people and making connections with people in the school. The class council was also responsible for organizing many school events, an example of which is dances. I was also a YC (youth counselor) in a summer camp called Camp Bharat, which teaches more about Indian culture through games, sports, dances, and much more. Before camp started, I, along with forty other students helped prepare for the camp as it is mostly a student-run program. I also volunteered through the camp by making supply bags for people who needed them through the rough time, writing letters to nursing homes because they did not get to have much interaction with loved ones these past years, and more things such as these. This camp also allowed me to learn more about issues like mental health, food insecurity, and it even allowed me to speak to professionals in fields similar to these, which I would love to apply and bring attention to during this opportunity. Last year was my first year being a part of YAC. In that year I was able to become a secretary and it really opened my eyes to all the good that students can achieve. The tree planting and CPR certifications are only two examples of what we have done last year, and I am looking forward to achieving more this coming year!			
Each year, YAC selects a service project theme based on a need in the community. For example, YAC focused its efforts on youth mental health needs from 2019-2021. What are some needs you see facing youth in your community that you would be interested in focusing on this year? Rank the issues below to most important (1) to least important (7).			



1 - Mental Health	5 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change
2 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion	6 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education
3 - Healthcare	7 - Economic Security
4 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education	

Additional thoughts/ ideas:
Not right now!
How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?
6-10 hours
YAC is a competitive program that thrives off of student participation—it's made better when youth can dedicate more time to it. If selected, please rate how you would likely prioritize your involvement in YAC (out of your extracurricular activities):
Highest Priority



North Creek High School

3613 191st Place SE Bothell, WA 98012
Phone: 425-408-8800 Fax: 425-408-8802



Eric McDowell, Ed. D, Principal

Gregory Cox, Ed. D, Assistant Principal
Sharyn Mehner, M. Ed, Assistant Principal
Joseph Robertson, M. Ed, Assistant Principal

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to highly recommend Saachi Makadia for a position on the Pinellas Youth Advisory Committee. I was Saachi's teacher for 10th grade Pre-AP English at North Creek High School for the 2022-2023 school year and cannot speak highly enough of her.

In a very difficult year for many students, Saachi shone in her ability to build connections with fellow students and take a leadership role in the class. We were online for the majority of the year, and I was continually impressed by Saachi's consistent, positive presence, reliable, thoughtful participation, and kindness toward all. For example, when discussing complex literature, Saachi would not only be unafraid to start the discussion with an insightful comment, but would listen to and synthesize the ideas of others, asking thoughtful questions and making connections. When group tasks would get stalled, Saachi would reliably move the group forward while remaining inclusive--a rare skill for a 10th grader. She is an articulate and mature teenager. Saachi would bring those strong leadership skills to her position on the advisory committee and would take full advantage of the opportunity to further develop her abilities.

Saachi also happened to be in a class period with a wide range of student skills and a diverse composition. Even in the challenging situation of breakout rooms, and later, hybrid instruction, Saachi demonstrated her strength in including all voices in the discussions, reaching out to and kindly including students who struggled more. As an advocate for other youth in the county, Saachi would take that responsibility seriously and strive to fairly speak up for others.

Furthermore, Saachi is highly dependable. She takes high personal responsibility for asking questions and seeking help as needed, while also taking initiative and completing everything asked of her even ahead of time. Her time management skills and sense of responsibility have set her up for success in not only completing service projects, but also in proposing or designing projects as needed to serve her community.

Once again, I cannot speak highly enough of Saachi's skills and strength of character. She would be an asset to your advisory board. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

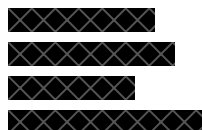
Kendra Hoerst
khoerst@nsd.org



Name: Arsh Shah		Past YAC Member: Yes
Residence: Palm Harbor	School: Palm Harbor Highschool	Grade: Junior
How did you hear about YAC?		
Friends or Family		
Why do you want to join YAC?		
I want to join as I enjoy helping out the community and I had a great experience the past two years		
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?		
Knowledge about how the Pinellas county body works and about politics.		
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?		
I play varsity football, attend St Petersburg college as a ECP student, and I want to go to med school.		
Each year, YAC selects a service project theme based on a need in the community. For example, YAC focused its efforts on youth mental health needs from 2019-2021. What are some needs you see facing youth in your community that you would be interested in focusing on this year? Rank the issues below to most important (1) to least important (7).		
1 - Healthcare 2 - Mental Health 3 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education 4 - Economic Security	5 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education 6 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion 7 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change	
Additional thoughts/ ideas:		
How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?		
10-20 hours		
YAC is a competitive program that thrives off of student participation—it's made better when youth can dedicate more time to it. If selected, please rate how you would likely prioritize your involvement in YAC (out of your extracurricular activities):		
Second Highest Priority		



Name: Mahdiya' Khan		Past YAC Member: No	
Residence: Clearwater	School: Clearwater High School		Grade: Senior
How did you hear about YAC?			
Friends or Family			
Why do you want to join YAC?			
I want to join so I can become an active member of the community and give back to the community that has done so much for me.			
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?			
A better understanding of how our local government runs.			
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?			
Career Goals: Bio-medical engineer Extra-curricular activities: NHS, SNHS, SGA and academic team Hobbies: crochet and sew			
Each year, YAC selects a service project theme based on a need in the community. For example, YAC focused its efforts on youth mental health needs from 2019-2021. What are some needs you see facing youth in your community that you would be interested in focusing on this year? Rank the issues below to most important (1) to least important (7).			
1 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change 2 - Mental Health 3 - Healthcare 4 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion		5 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education 6 - Economic Security 7 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education	
Additional thoughts/ ideas:			
How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?			
10-20 hours			
YAC is a competitive program that thrives off of student participation—it's made better when youth can dedicate more time to it. If selected, please rate how you would likely prioritize your involvement in YAC (out of your extracurricular activities):			
Second Highest Priority			



Mahdiya Khan

OBJECTIVE:

To be a marketer that develops creative and new ideas.

EDUCATION:

- St. Petersburg College 2020 – Present
 - Dual enrollment
- Clearwater High School 2018 - 2023

WORK EXPERIENCE:

- ITK Cleaning Service 2016 – 2019
 - Cleaning Dialysis clinics
- Kumon 2020
 - Tutoring kids from 5–14-year-old

SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS:

- Student Government 2018 – 2020
 - Treasurer
- Yearbook 2021 – 2022
 - Photographer
- Academic Team 2021 - 2022

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

- Explorers Program 2018 - 2022
 - Toys for Tots: parking and organizing the toys
 - Christmas Barracuda: parking and escorting bikes
 - Music at the park: parking
- Turkey Trot 2018
 - Giving water out and trash duty
- Camp Cubber volunteer 2018
 - Supervised pre-school to 3rd grade students

HONORS, AWARDS, AND MEMBERSHIPS:

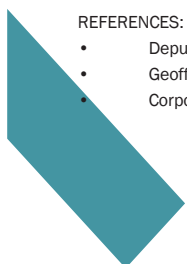
- Explorer Program 2018 – 2022
 - Youth experience the career of being a Pinellas Sherriff deputy
- National Honor Society 2021-Present
- 3rd place Explorers Marksman Award 2020
- 3 Dr. Vilma Fernandez-Zalupski Certificate of Academic Achievement 2019 - 2021

INTERESTS, HOBBIES, AND TALENTS:

- Taekwondo
- Dance
- Crochet /Sewing
- Programing Microsoft applications

REFERENCES:

- Deputy Amber Ashford (Pinellas County Sheriff Office) (727)-243-5730
- Geoffrey Pierret (Clearwater High School) (727)-298-1620
- Corporal Harris Brown (Pinellas County Sheriff Office) (727)-743-0667





Name: Matthew Wallace		Past YAC Member: No
Residence: Seminole	School: Florida Virtual School (FLVS) How	Grade: Freshman
did you hear about YAC?		
Friends or Family		
Why do you want to join YAC?		
I am very interested in learning the history of Pinellas County and how government works.		
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?		
I hope to be able to volunteer on community projects and help make a difference. My sister was on YAC last year and she was able to learn amazing things about our community and even got to tour the wastewater plant and see how reclaimed water was made. I am hoping that we can do that this year, and maybe even go to a meeting to see how the leaders in our county make decisions that impact all of us.		
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?		
I am very interested in the environment and I want to become an engineer, maybe an environmental engineer. I am concerned about whether enough is being done to protect the environment. I love school, especially math and science classes. I like to swim and I play ice hockey.		
Each year, YAC selects a service project theme based on a need in the community. For example, YAC focused its efforts on youth mental health needs from 2019-2021. What are some needs you see facing youth in your community that you would be interested in focusing on this year? Rank the issues below to most important (1) to least important (7).		
1 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change 2 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion 3 - Mental Health 4 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education	5 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education 6 - Economic Security 7 - Healthcare	
Additional thoughts/ ideas:		
I would like if we could do a project for the environment or for helping kids deal with challenges to let them know that people are wanting to help and support them.		
How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?		
6-10 hours		
YAC is a competitive program that thrives off of student participation—it's made better when youth can dedicate more time to it. If selected, please rate how you would likely prioritize your involvement in YAC (out of your extracurricular activities):		
Highest Priority		



Name: Caroline Wallace		Past YAC Member: Yes	
Residence: Seminole	School: Largo High School - International Baccalaureate		Grade: Senior
How did you hear about YAC?			
Last year, I became aware of YAC through an alert from my school.			
Why do you want to join YAC?			
I care deeply about Pinellas County and our local area. The experiences last year were immersive and engaging. I particularly enjoyed the tours we took of Pinellas County facilities such as the wastewater treatment plant and the pet shelter.			
Becoming more familiar with county government and all the various services that the government provides makes me appreciate living here and helps me learn how to be a better citizen and steward of the environment. I am excited that my brother was so inspired by what we did last year in YAC that he is applying to join YAC too.			
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?			
I hope to carry on the experiences I gained last year and move forward to learn even more. I would like to better understand how county government works and what resources are available to help citizens who are struggling with homelessness or emotional challenges.			
I would also like to learn more about what my generation can do to protect the environment as we move into adulthood.			
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?			
I am a senior in the International Baccalaureate program and I have focused my in-depth studies on environmental issues such as the rampant overuse of plastic bags contributing to plastic pollution in oceans. I am on Largo High School's varsity swim and tennis and hope to study environmental sciences in college.			
Each year, YAC selects a service project theme based on a need in the community. For example, YAC focused its efforts on youth mental health needs from 2019-2021. What are some needs you see facing youth in your community that you would be interested in focusing on this year? Rank the issues below to most important (1) to least important (7).			
1 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change		5 - Mental Health	
2 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education		6 - Economic Security	
3 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion		7 - Healthcare	
4 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education			
Additional thoughts/ ideas:			
I am hoping we can do something related to the environment. There was a study recently that there are 4 billion particles of microplastics in Tampa Bay. Every time I participate in a trash clean up at a park, I am stunned at how much trash we find. All the trash that is going into our watershed is polluting our local waters and I am hoping we can do a project that focuses on taking action and creating awareness of the impact we have on our environment now and in the future.			
How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?			
6-10 hours			



YAC is a competitive program that thrives off of student participation—it's made better when youth can dedicate more time to it. If selected, please rate how you would likely prioritize your involvement in YAC (out of your extracurricular activities):

Highest Priority



Name: Avery Martin		Past YAC Member: No	
Residence: Largo	School: Clearwater Central Catholic	Grade: Freshman	
How did you hear about YAC?			
Friends or Family			
Why do you want to join YAC?			
<p>My sister, Kate Martin, was a member of YAC last year. We moved from Michigan to Florida last year and being part of YAC allowed her to meet other teens from different schools and become a part of helping in the community.</p> <p>I would listen to her talk about the meetings and the places the group would meet. As a high schooler now, I am excited to submit my application. Should the government aspect very interesting, and it also sounds interesting to me too. I would love to contribute and have a voice in my community.</p>			
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?			
I hope to have a better understanding of how my local government works, how I can be involved and what differences I can make in my community			
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?			
<p>In school I am currently a cheerleader and once clubs start for the school year, I will be joining the Morning Star Amigos Club, Community Builders Club, and Environmental Club. In my opinion, Morning Star Amigos is one of the best clubs we have at my school. This club helps kids, some our own ages, with learning and developmental disabilities. Club ambassadors visit and help these kids at least once a month (I wish it was more!)</p> <p>Outside of school, I am a violinist and have been playing for almost 10 years. This fall I will be volunteering to perform for senior homes. I have even played at Carnegie Hall twice. You can hear me play at my website: averymartinviolinist.com. This past summer, I also volunteered at Coastal Animal Clinic where I helped take care of all types of animals. I hope to attend University of Florida to become a veterinarian.</p>			
Each year, YAC selects a service project theme based on a need in the community. For example, YAC focused its efforts on youth mental health needs from 2019-2021. What are some needs you see facing youth in your community that you would be interested in focusing on this year? Rank the issues below to most important (1) to least important (7).			
1 - Economic Security 2 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education 3 - Mental Health 4 - Healthcare		5 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education 6 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion 7 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change	
Additional thoughts/ ideas:			
I have always had a special place in my heart for all animals. I have noticed a lot of animal shelter are in need of resources. I try to donate when I can and even had people bring shelter donations instead of gifts for my birthday. Being a part of YAC, we could invest time and helping shelters by providing bedding, food, and love for these animals.			



I used to make dog beds out of pillowcases that people would donate to me. I would stuff them with scraps of cloth material or cut up old clothing. They were fun to make, and the animals loved how soft they were. It was also a great way to recycle materials!

How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?

10-20 hours

YAC is a competitive program that thrives off of student participation—it's made better when youth can dedicate more time to it. If selected, please rate how you would likely prioritize your involvement in YAC (out of your extracurricular activities):

Second Highest Priority



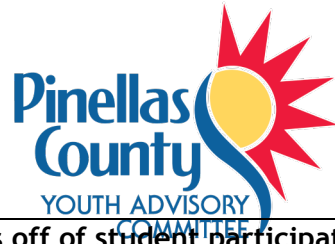
Name: Tristan Mitchell		Past YAC Member: Yes	
Residence: St. Petersburg	School: St. Petersburg High	Grade: Sophomore	
How did you hear about YAC?			
Peach Jar (school flyer)			
Why do you want to join YAC?			
Because I genuinely want to help the community and make St. Pete a better place.			
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?			
I would like to make new friends and helping out the community.			
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?			
I'm involved in the drama club and some of my hobbies are playing instruments and video games.			
Each year, YAC selects a service project theme based on a need in the community. For example, YAC focused its efforts on youth mental health needs from 2019-2021. What are some needs you see facing youth in your community that you would be interested in focusing on this year? Rank the issues below to most important (1) to least important (7).			
1 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change		5 - Mental Health	
2 - Economic Security		6 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion	
3 - Healthcare		7 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education	
4 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education			
Additional thoughts/ ideas:			
Affordable housing			
How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?			
0-5 hours			
YAC is a competitive program that thrives off of student participation—it's made better when youth can dedicate more time to it. If selected, please rate how you would likely prioritize your involvement in YAC (out of your extracurricular activities):			
Highest Priority			



Name: Sofía Olsen		Past YAC Member: No	
Residence: Seminole	School: Largo High IB		Grade: Freshman
How did you hear about YAC?			
My brother Lukas Olsen and my cousins Aaron and Charlie Stacks were in YAC and they thought I would enjoy it.			
Why do you want to join YAC?			
I want to join YAC because I want to impact my community in good ways. I like the idea of working with a team of students and county leaders to make our community a better place to live. I want to make a difference in my community.			
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?			
I hope to gain leadership skills, and improve my collaboration skills. I want to learn about how country government impacts the community.			
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?			
I want to be a Physician Assistant, but I also want to serve in a philanthropic group to help youth in my community.			
Each year, YAC selects a service project theme based on a need in the community. For example, YAC focused its efforts on youth mental health needs from 2019-2021. What are some needs you see facing youth in your community that you would be interested in focusing on this year? Rank the issues below to most important (1) to least important (7).			
1 - Mental Health 2 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change 3 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education 4 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion		5 - Healthcare 6 - Economic Security 7 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education	
Additional thoughts/ ideas:			
I think it would be great to combine a focus on mental health with a campaign to get youth back out in nature. Research shows that being in nature, getting sunlight, and getting exercise all greatly impact mental health in good ways. We could focus on different outdoor activities promoting mental health... like planting/growing your own food with a theme of cultivating your wellness. We could do a free yoga lesson in the botanical gardens for youth (and make sure it's accessible to teens with limited mobility). I have lots of ideas of how we could combine the themes of mental health and the outdoors!			
How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?			
6-10 hours			
YAC is a competitive program that thrives off of student participation—it's made better when youth can dedicate more time to it. If selected, please rate how you would likely prioritize your involvement in YAC (out of your extracurricular activities):			
Highest Priority			



Name: Alexander Shkemb		Past YAC Member: No	
Residence: Tarpon Springs		School: Palm Harbor University Highschool	Grade: Senior
How did you hear about YAC?			
Peach Jar (school flyer)			
Why do you want to join YAC?			
<p>To me, the Youth Advisory Committee will offer the opportunity to explore career fields I am already interested as well as collaborate with peers across the county to produce a significant change. I am involved in a House of Reps. campaign, however, that focuses only on the federal government. The reason I really want to be apart of the YAC is to learn more about the County Government and the opportunities it offers.</p> <p>The YAC also will give me the chance to meet new friends in the county as I recently moved down to Florida from Michigan and have only lived here for about 2 years. Moving down to Florida has also made me more passionate about protecting the environment and wildlife, as I can see the importance of preventing future dangers.</p>			
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?			
<p>While I was on the Open House meeting, I learned about the various subcommittees the YAC offered as was especially interested in the marketing one. I do not know exactly what I want to pursue in college yet, but I really think getting hands-on experience with a skill that can be used in EVERY profession would be extremely beneficial to my career in the future!</p> <p>And as I mentioned earlier, I do have a decent amount of experience with understanding the state and national government. But I haven't really had the chance to explore the County Sector as well. Skills, connections, and career prep are definitely some of my main goals. But overall, the fact that YAC is an opportunity to help while learning is why I want to be a part of it.</p>			
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?			
I uploaded my resume with everything!			
Each year, YAC selects a service project theme based on a need in the community. For example, YAC focused its efforts on youth mental health needs from 2019-2021. What are some needs you see facing youth in your community that you would be interested in focusing on this year? Rank the issues below to most important (1) to least important (7).			
1 - Economic Security 2 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion 3 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education 4 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change		5 - Mental Health 6 - Healthcare 7 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education	
Additional thoughts/ ideas:			
I think that assisting our high school students with college prep and advice, especially those who are freshmen or new to high school, is extremely important and ensuring their future success. Our older members can assist our younger members of the committee as well!			
How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?			
10-20 hours			



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Second Highest Priority



Alexander Shkempi

High School Student

PROFILE

Fourth year high school student who has a passion for academics, sports, community, meeting new people, and challenging myself. As a relatively new part of the school and state, challenging myself and trying new things has been a big part of my life. As a student, I have participated in baseball, basketball, and track, served the community through various projects, and began my own little friends & family business, all while maintaining high academic excellence and making it onto the Dean's List.

CONTACT



EDUCATION

High School Senior
Graduation: May 2023
Palm Harbor University High School
(IB Program)

- 6 AP courses/ 7 IB Courses
- 4.61 GPA

KEY SKILLS

- Adaptability
- Communication Skills
- Customer Service
- Organizational Skills
- Positive Attitude
- Problem solving
- Strong Work Ethic
- Team leadership

WORK, VOLUNTEER, & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Campaign Intern

Eric Lynn for Congress Campaign

June 2022 – November 2022

- As an intern for the campaign, I phone-bank and text-bank to reach out to voters and inform them of upcoming events we are holding.
- Another responsibility I have is donor research. We will look into potential donors who support the same causes and reach out to them.
- Canvassing or Door-to-door knocking is also a form of voter outreach in which we go out into local communities as a team to pass out flyers and discuss important issues.
- I assist in running campaign kickoff and rally events held across my county along with the rest of the team

Students Rights & Responsibilities Committee

Pinellas County Schools- Palm Harbor University High

**September 2022 – Present

- I have been selected by my Principal to serve as one of the three student government representatives for my school on the district-wide committee.
- Our Student Committee from across the district will meet to discuss issues we see in our schools and work together with the school board to create positive changes
- We will also meet with the Superintendent of PCS, Kevin Hendrick, to discuss similar issues within our community and collaborate to address them along with the school board.

Volunteer

Tarpon Springs Aquarium & Animal Sanctuary

October 2021 – Present

- Our team at the aquarium gets the chance to provide an enjoyable and meaningful experience between the community and diverse wildlife through our shows, open exhibits, and more.
- I assist in educating our visitors both on the animal itself and how to feed them.
- I additionally lead and help train new volunteers at our facility



CLUBS & HONOR SOCIETIES

2021-

National Honors Society

2021-

National History Honors Society

2021-

National Spanish Honors Society

2021-

Key Club

2020-

Investment Club (Board)

2022-

Origami Club (Board)

Volunteer

Toy Makers of East Lake

January 2021 – July 2021

- I was a part of the ToyMakers where we made unique toys for children battling illness in the hospital.
- I sanded and helped make these toys ready for their final coats of paint before they would be distributed.

American Legion Boys State Delegate

FL Boys State

June 2022

- I was selected by my local American Legion Post to attend the Summer Leadership Program in the capitol at Florida State University.
- I learned the inner-workings of political machinery and participated in a mock government system, in which us delegates wrote and debated on legislation for our mock state.
- I was elected for the House of Reps. and was able to debate plus get my bill passed during our program's duration.

Club Board Positions

Investment & Origami Club

Jan 2022 –

- In the Origami Club, I am the Secretary.
 - My At Origami Club we are working to partner with school-wide organizations like NHS to organize community service opportunities for students to visit nursing homes or childrens' hospitals to engage in an enjoyable event
 - My responsibilities include tracking attendance and hours, creating lesson plans for meetings, assisting and teaching members if they are struggling with steps, as well as running the remind.
- In the Investment Club, I am the social media manager/ promotional officer.
 - My responsibilities include running our instagram page, creating promotional material and flyers, as well as contributing any knowledge/creation to the creation of our lessons



Name: Vivienne Cseh		Past YAC Member: No
Residence: Tarpon Springs	School: St. Petersburg Collegiate High School	Grade: Junior
did you hear about YAC?		
Pinellas County Website		
Why do you want to join YAC?		
I want to join the Youth Advisory Committee to be more active in my community and explore volunteer opportunities.		
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?		
I would like to gain life experience from volunteer work and further develop my character with traits such as responsibility and professionalism. I also hope to gain the experience of working with a broader array of people in the community.		
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?		
I am a member at the Tampa Fencing Academy and play piano and electric guitar. In my free time, I also enjoy illustration and writing. I am currently considering entering the field of forensics or pathology for my future career.		
Each year, YAC selects a service project theme based on a need in the community. For example, YAC focused its efforts on youth mental health needs from 2019-2021. What are some needs you see facing youth in your community that you would be interested in focusing on this year? Rank the issues below to most important (1) to least important (7).		
1 - Mental Health 2 - Economic Security 3 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion 4 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education	5 - Healthcare 6 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change 7 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education	
Additional thoughts/ ideas:		
In terms of mental health, school/work-life balance and stress management		
How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?		
6-10 hours		
YAC is a competitive program that thrives off of student participation—it's made better when youth can dedicate more time to it. If selected, please rate how you would likely prioritize your involvement in YAC (out of your extracurricular activities):		
Second Highest Priority		



Name: Leslie Bassous		Past YAC Member: No	
Residence: Palm Harbor	School: Palm Harbor University High School		Grade: Sophomore
How did you hear about YAC?			
Friends or Family			
Why do you want to join YAC?			
I think it would be an amazing opportunity to learn new skills.			
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?			
I hope to meet new people and understand other people's opinions.			
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?			
I am currently in my school's FBLA and Best Buddies clubs. I also currently work at Scott's Cleaners and volunteer at my church.			
Each year, YAC selects a service project theme based on a need in the community. For example, YAC focused its efforts on youth mental health needs from 2019-2021. What are some needs you see facing youth in your community that you would be interested in focusing on this year? Rank the issues below to most important (1) to least important (7).			
1 - Healthcare 2 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education 3 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion 4 - Mental Health		5 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change 6 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education 7 - Economic Security	
Additional thoughts/ ideas:			
How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?			
6-10 hours			
YAC is a competitive program that thrives off of student participation—it's made better when youth can dedicate more time to it. If selected, please rate how you would likely prioritize your involvement in YAC (out of your extracurricular activities):			
Second Highest Priority			



Name: Avery Ciskoski		Past YAC Member: No	
Residence: Palm Harbor	School: Palm Harbor University High School		Grade: Sophomore
How did you hear about YAC?			
Friends or Family			
Why do you want to join YAC?			
I think that this will be an interesting activity to participate in and I will learn valuable leadership skills.			
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?			
I am hoping to meet new people and gain a feel for what careers in government are like.			
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?			
I am in the Center for Wellness and Medical Professions at PHUHS and am apart of FBLA and Best Buddies at my school. I volunteer with St. Pete Fire Rescue and with the Dunedin Fine Art Center. Also, I babysit in my free time.			
Each year, YAC selects a service project theme based on a need in the community. For example, YAC focused its efforts on youth mental health needs from 2019-2021. What are some needs you see facing youth in your community that you would be interested in focusing on this year? Rank the issues below to most important (1) to least important (7).			
1 - Healthcare 2 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion 3 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education 4 - Mental Health		5 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change 6 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education 7 - Economic Security	
Additional thoughts/ ideas:			
How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?			
6-10 hours			
YAC is a competitive program that thrives off of student participation—it's made better when youth can dedicate more time to it. If selected, please rate how you would likely prioritize your involvement in YAC (out of your extracurricular activities):			
Second Highest Priority			



Name: Judson Vann		Past YAC Member: Yes	
Residence: St. Petersburg	School: Clearwater Central Catholic		Grade: Junior
How did you hear about YAC?			
Friends or Family			
Why do you want to join YAC?			
I believe YAC is a committee that has the ability to make significant improvements for the youth who live in Pinellas County. I also believe that the Youth Advisory committee is an opportunity to lead with other leaders from schools around the county. I would hope to grow the relationships I have with these leaders, and hope to continue our strive for Youth Mental Health. YAC also has many different opportunities to explore and learn about our county. It also provides you with the opportunity to learn how the county functions behind the scenes. Overall, YAC will help me prepare myself for leadership roles I hope to excel at in the future, possibly even county government.			
What do you hope to gain from participating in YAC?			
I hope to gain connections throughout my YAC experience. I feel YAC is an opportunity in which you meet many people that you wouldn't meet with any other group. I also hope to gain leadership skills. This is something that I learn by listening to the speakers and many county leaders that come and speak to YAC. This is important to me, because I feel that leadership skills are something that can always be improved. Lastly, career prep is also something that look to gain from YAC. YAC provides you with opportunities to go out and explore many different types of careers that are available in Pinellas County.			
What are your career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies?			
Resume file below			
Each year, YAC selects a service project theme based on a need in the community. For example, YAC focused its efforts on youth mental health needs from 2019-2021. What are some needs you see facing youth in your community that you would be interested in focusing on this year? Rank the issues below to most important (1) to least important (7).			
1 - Mental Health 2 - Economic Security 3 - Civic Engagement/Public Service Education 4 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion		5 - Workforce Preparation/Higher Education 6 - Environmental Issues/Climate Change 7 - Healthcare	
Additional thoughts/ ideas:			
I would like to focus on either Youth Mental Health or Youth Safety within the county.			
How much time do you typically spend on extracurricular activities/ hobbies/ sports each week?			
10-20 hours			



YAC is a competitive program that thrives off of student participation—it's made better when youth can dedicate more time to it. If selected, please rate how you would likely prioritize your involvement in YAC (out of your extracurricular activities):

Highest Priority



Judson D. Vann

MOTIVATION

I am committed to being a servant leader in my school and community, one who strives to help those who cannot help themselves. I bring passion, vibrant enthusiasm, and bold dedication to all of my work. My leadership skills, county government experience, STEM knowledge and strict discipline aid my efforts to help others, find justice, and create change.

SERVICE

- November 2017 – Present – I am the co-founder and coordinator of BatsFlips4Kids, a nonprofit established in 2017. We are dedicated to providing sports equipment to youth in need. We collect bats and used baseball equipment at Pinellas and Hillsborough County Little Leagues as well as youth sports clinics. We ship and provide delivery of donations to players in areas such as Central Florida, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Kenya. I coordinate with the Tampa Bay Rays and First United Methodist Church to fund shipments. Since 2017, we have collected over 400 bats: 60 sent to Central Florida, 100 sent to Dominican Republic, 40 to Kenya and approximately 150 additional donated bats in process for Cuba delivery in April 2021. In January 2022, we delivered 5 L-screens donated by Clearwater Central Catholic High School to a little league in St. Petersburg.
- January 2022 – Present – Founder of Books Behind Bats – a program designed to encourage academic success for young athletes. The program collects new and used books and school supplies for Pinellas County youth who attend athletic programs for underprivileged youth such as Stars of the Future sponsored by the Pete Mulry Foundation.
- September 2020 - Present - Contributed in excess of 102 student volunteer hours to date since starting high school in Sept 2020. I have worked as, a volunteer umpire for Little League, volunteer coach for Northeast Little League 11u baseball, volunteered for baseball equipment collections and serve as a Clearwater Central Catholic School Ambassador.
- October 2020 - Present - Pinellas Youth Advisory Committee – Appointed by Pinellas County Board of Commissioners – Service group committed to better understanding how youth can impact county government and agencies to improve the inner workings of Pinellas County, FL. Committee is focused on improving adolescents' access to Pinellas County resources for mental health needs. Committee delivered a 4 course mental health series to youth in Pinellas County with each topic having a local expert presenter via Zoom (Suicide Prevention, Substance Abuse, LGBTQ, Mental Health during Quarantine).
- October 2020 – Present – Certified Mental Health First Aider – Public education program which offers role playing and simulations to learn how to assess mental health crisis. Allows for early detection and intervention by learning the signs and symptoms of illnesses such as anxiety, depression, eating disorders, bipolar disorder and addictions.
- May 2021 – Present – Selected by leadership of Clearwater Central Catholic to serve on the Water 4 Mercy service committee. Water 4 Mercy is a volunteer organization committed to providing clean water, agricultural technologies and modernized educational solutions to remote African Villages.



LEADERSHIP

- President of the Clearwater Central Catholic Junior Class – 2022- 2023 – currently serve on the Junior class executive council as well as participate in the overall school student council.
- President of the Clearwater Central Catholic Sophomore Class – 2021- 2022 – currently serve on the Sophomore class executive council as well as participate in the overall school student council.
- May 2021 – Present – Vice President or Clearwater Central Catholic Student Ambassadors – students selected by school leaders to represent CCC to middle schoolers and groups outside of CCC for admissions and school advancement events.
- September 2021 – May 2022 – Youth Leadership Pinellas representative. Selected to attend a monthly leadership program focusing on gaining a greater understanding of Pinellas County and the services it offers – leadership days have included full tours of all branches of Emergency Services, Animal Services, Arts and Culture and gaining a better understanding of the Justice system.
- February 2022 – Present – Captain JV Baseball team – Clearwater Central Catholic High School

SCHOLARSHIP

- GPA 4.0
- Freshman Honors Curriculum, Sophomore IB and AP curriculum, Junior IB Curriculum
- Summer 2021 – Participant in Tampa Bay Chapter of the Federal Bar Association (TBFBA) Law Summer Camp – Opportunity to learn about the legal system and develop advocacy skills from federal judges, prosecutors, public defenders and explore their respective roles within the court system

SPORTS or ACTIVITIES

- September 2020 – Present - Varsity and JV Baseball Team Clearwater Central Catholic High
- November 2021 – Present – JV Basketball Team Clearwater Central Catholic High
- Top Tier Baseball Team for summer and fall baseball 2020 and summer 2021
- Fall 2021 – Present - Angels Baseball Team travel ball team



Clearwater Central Catholic High School

2750 Haines Bayshore Road • Clearwater, FL 33760-1435
(727) 531-1449 • Fax (727) 535-7034 • www.ccchs.org

Dear Youth Advisory Committee,

I am writing in strong recommendation for Judson Vann to be considered for the Pinellas County Youth Advisory Committee. As the Dean of Students at Clearwater Catholic High School, I have the pleasure of collaborating with Judson in his role as a student leader. Judson holds a number of leadership positions including President of the Junior Class and Vice President of Student Ambassadors. Judson also participates in our peer ministry program and plays for our baseball and basketball teams.

Principled and compassionate, Judson's maturity stands out amongst his peers. I have seen Judson go out of his way to make sure new students feel welcomed, as well as stand up to friends who were stretching the rules. When working with his fellow officers, he thrives at collaborating and incorporating others ideas, while clearly communicating goals. His position as president of his class is testament to the respect he has earned from his classmates.

In speaking with Judson, he expresses a passion to "lead with other leaders" to create an opportunity for positive change. He notes that learning and educating the community about youth mental health is at the forefront of his agenda. I have no doubt with the dedication Judson puts in to all he does, that he will have a positive impact on any objective the committee embarks on.

Judson's upstanding character, approachability and resolve in all that he does will help serve our community now and for years to come and it is with great confidence that I recommend Judson to continue to serve on the Pinellas County Youth Advisory Committee for the 2022-2023 school year.

Please reach out if you have any questions.

In Good Faith,

Iszanne Knoop M. Ed

Dean for Personal Growth

Clearwater Central Catholic High School

lknoop@ccchs.org

727-531-1449



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