

Proud of your volunteer service?
Get recognized.

*Become a Youth
Service Advocate.*



NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
YOUTH EMPOWERING YOUTH
YOUTH SERVICE ADVOCATE

APPLICATION

NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION YOUTH SERVICE ADVOCATE PROGRAM

At the New York State Bar Association, we know that each year hundreds of young people throughout the state give their time and energy to helping others, and we want to recognize these special young people by conferring upon them the designation, "Youth Service Advocate."

The Youth Service Advocate designation is reserved for exceptional youth who have devoted a certain number of hours to law-related volunteer service in a given year. Law-related service is volunteer efforts designed to meet a need of the state court system or other government law-related entity or group.

Are you passionate about serving your community and making it a better place to live and work? Do you regularly provide volunteer service to your community? If so, you deserve to be recognized for your commitment to volunteer service. The Youth Service Advocate designation is an honor, and may be used on applications for college admission and scholarships, as well as on applications for other awards and honors. However, the designation is more than an honorary title – Youth Service Advocates are role models and, thus, become advocates for volunteer service, thereby empowering their peers – and even adults – to rise to the same level of service.

Designees will receive a certificate, verification letter and a back sack. **In addition, an extraordinary applicant(s) will be chosen to receive an honorary designation during the Annual Law Day celebration hosted by the New York State Court of Appeals.**



HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

Criteria

To be eligible for the “Youth Service Advocate” designation, the applicant must perform the requisite number of hours of volunteer service in a **law-related** project (or projects) over the span of one year (March 1 to February 28). Law-related service is volunteer efforts designed to meet a need of the state court system or other government or law-related agency or group. Participants identify a need, develop a project to fulfill that need and carry out the project while simultaneously learning about the agency that they are helping. Such projects include, but are not limited to:

- Book drives for new or used books for adolescents using family court waiting rooms
- Donations of used computers for use in court waiting rooms
- Reading to children in family court Children’s Centers
- Participation in Youth Peer Mediation/Proceedings in Youth Courts (non-training service)
- Participation in Juror Appreciation Week
- Study courthouse history and functions and conduct court tours
- Complete a service project in conjunction with the Unified Court System’s Student Ambassador Program.
- Organize and participate in a program in which you share or exchange information about the United States legal system with an international student or group of international students.

For more information on these projects, or to ensure that your proposed project meets the criteria, please contact the Law, Youth and Citizenship Program at lyc@nysba.org or **518.486.5760**.

YOUTH SERVICE ADVOCATE

AGES 10 TO 13

25 hours of individual volunteer service annually
150-word description of service experience
Certification signed by service sponsor
Optional photos and supporting materials

AGES 14 TO 16

40 hours of individual volunteer service annually
250-word description of service experience
Certification signed by service sponsor
Optional photos and supporting materials

AGES 17-18

50 hours of individual volunteer service annually
500-word description of service experience
Certification signed by service sponsor
Optional photos and supporting materials

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING DESIGNATED A YOUTH SERVICE ADVOCATE BY THE NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION?

- Your honorific designation may be used on applications for college admission, scholarships and other awards or honors.
- You will increase your knowledge of the legal system.
- You will meet lawyers, judges and other court professionals, learn about the work they do and identify career opportunities in the legal profession.
- You will experience the personal benefits of helping others and encouraging your friends to do the same.
- You will leave your mark on your community, establishing yourself as a leader and making your community a better place to live and work.
- In addition to receiving a certificate, verification letter and back sack, you may be honored at a special Law Day ceremony hosted by the New York State Court of Appeals.

APPLICATION

Part One: Tell Us About Yourself

Please type or print clearly.

Applicant's Name _____

Applicant's Age _____

Applicant's Birthdate _____

(Your age as of March 1 of the year in which you begin your service project determines the category for which you are eligible)

Home Street Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Telephone _____

School _____

School Street Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

School Telephone _____

Principal's Name _____



Part Two: Tell Us About Your Service Project(s)

Please complete this form for **each** project that you count toward your total service hours. You can copy and attach additional forms if needed.

Description of Project:

Project Location and Function within the Legal System:

Contact at Project Location:

Name _____

Title _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Dates and hours of service:

Certification:

I, _____, affirm that _____ performed

(Name)

(Applicant)

_____ hours of law-related volunteer service at _____

(Location)

and that the above information describing said service is accurate.

Signature

Date

Relationship to Applicant

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(Location)

and that the above information describing said service is accurate.

Signature

Date

Relationship to Applicant

Part Three: Essay

Please attach an essay describing your service experience, including an explanation of what you have gained personally from your experience. If you are applying for the Youth Service Advocate designation for ages 10 to 13, your essay must be at least 150 words; if you are applying for the Youth Service Advocate designation for ages 14-16, your essay must be at least 250 words; if you are applying for the Youth Service Advocate designation for ages 17-18, your essay must be at least 500 words.

Part Four: Optional Photos and Supporting Materials

Please include any photos of your service and any supporting materials that you feel are relevant to describing your service project and experience.

Parent/Guardian Release:

In connection with the Youth Service Advocate Program application, I acknowledge that my child has submitted an essay as well as optional photos and/or video and supporting materials, and I consent to any and all uses of said materials, as well as of images taken by or for the New York State Bar Association for promotional purposes.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

RETURN TO:

Law, Youth and Citizenship Program
Attn: Youth Service Advocate Program
New York State Bar Association
One Elk Street
Albany, New York 12207

Applications must be postmarked by midnight on March 12



NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
LAW YOUTH AND CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM
YOUTH SERVICE ADVOCATE PROGRAM

One Elk Street
Albany, NY 12207