

What are the requirements to become a YSA Youth Venturer?

- Motivation to make a difference in your community!
- Ethical standards – know right from wrong, and are trustworthy and responsible.
- A YSA Youth Venture must be completely initiated, created, run, and led by youth.
- Be between the ages of 12 – 20.
- Create a sustainable new civic-minded organization, club, or business.
- A youth-lead team that utilizes adults as resources, not as project directors.
- Clear, attainable goals.
- A credible plan and budget, including a strategy to evaluate progress and community impact (we will help you develop these).
- Host a National Youth Service day event on National & Global Youth Service Day (N&GYSD).
- Engage public officials, media, and young people traditionally not asked to serve, in your venture.

What benefits will I receive as a YSA Youth Venturer?

- Access to all N&GYSD materials, including: Tip Sheets, Planning toolkits, SERVENet.org, weekly publications, Project Plan-It!, and much more!
- Youth Venture t-shirt, post-its, and business cards.
- Youth Venture Action Kit – a comprehensive guide to working with Youth Venture, and how to jump start your venture, as well as tips on fundraising, giving presentations, running meetings, working with your allies, engaging the media, and more!
- Access to media opportunities, scholarships, awards, and technical ally support.
- Access to a national network of likeminded young people.
- An incredible sustainable youth social entrepreneurship, your Venture, which you created by yourself and are using to make a positive change in your community.

YSA Youth Ventures have to be sustainable, what does this mean?

In order to become a YSA Youth Venture, you must be sustainable in terms of membership, leadership, and financial stability. In terms of membership, you must prove in your application that you have the ability to generate interest in your venture and recruit participants. In terms of leadership, you must prove in your application that you will cultivate leadership qualities in other members of your venture, or younger youth, so that should you move on, new leadership can step up and take your place. In terms of financial sustainability, you must prove in your application, that you have a plan to fundraise, seek donations, or generate revenue.

Will I receive the full \$1000?

The YSA Youth Venture program will give out awards of *up-to* a \$1,000 each of start-up funding. Do not request \$1,000 from Youth Venture, just to receive a \$1,000. Look critically at your venture plan, and look where you can cut costs, or receive in-kind donations. We look very closely at budgets to determine whether applicants have the ability to become financially sustainable. We recommend that you seek in-kind donations, and plan fundraising events as you work on your application, so that we will be able to see that you are already making progress.

Can I email my Action Plan?

Yes. We prefer that ALL Action Plans be sent via email. This makes it easier for us to file incoming Action Plans. Save your Action Plan as your Venture's FULL name (for example: "Save The Rainforest.doc" or "Youth News (YN).doc") and email ONE document to ysayvprogram@youthventure.org. DO NOT send multiple attachments or duplicate submissions or copy and paste your Action Plan into the email message.

Can I fax my Action Plan?

No, we do not accept faxed Action Plans.

After I submit my application, what happens next?

You will receive confirmation that your application has been received after it is submitted. Applications are then reviewed twice within a seven day period upon submission. Once they are reviewed, applicants are notified as to whether or not they have made it to the second phase of the YSA Youth Venture application process.

Applicants who move forward to phase 2 will have individual meetings, over the phone, with YSA Youth Venture program staff. These meetings are designed to help applicants refine their application, in order to ensure the success of their venture. Individual will be notified when their meetings are.

After applicants have revised their applications, they will go before a selection panel. Selection panels are held in the evening 3-4 weeks after submission. Selections panels are conducted via conference call. Applicants will present their venture idea for up to ten minutes, and then respond to questions from selection panelists for ten minutes. Selection panelists consist of community leaders and current YSA Youth Venturers.

Applicants will be notified within two days after their selection panels if they have been selected to be a YSA Youth Venture team.

If I am selected as a YSA Youth Venture, what happens next?

Youth Venture is not a grant making organization. Rather, we are giving youth the opportunity to create social entrepreneurships to change their communities for the better. We invest in youth, so they will change their communities, and get more youth involved

Frequently Asked Questions

YSA Youth Venture

in change-making. Because we care about the success of YSA Youth Ventures, we will stay with you through your first year as a venture. We require a 3-month, and 12-month evaluation. We also require monthly updates, so we can provide you with the tools and resources to help make your venture a success.

I still have more questions, what should I do?

For more information about the YSA Youth Venture Program, check out www.genv.net/en-us/region/ysa. For more information about Youth Service America or National & Global Youth Service Day, check out www.ysa.org. If you have any remaining questions, please contact us at 202.296.2992 ext 114 or ysayvprogram@youthventure.org.