



THE SEVENTH ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH ACTION CONFERENCE

**ALIVE TO THRIVE**

ADVOCATING FOR  
HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

APRIL 13-15, 2018  
HARRISBURG, PA

YOUTHACTIONCONFERENCE.COM



## The Seventh Annual Pennsylvania Youth Action Conference: *Alive to Thrive*

### Request for Session Proposals – Workshop Sessions

Submission Deadline: March 1, 2018

Notifications Begin: March 10, 2018

### The Pennsylvania Youth Action Conference

First held in 2011, the Youth Action Conference (YAC) has become Pennsylvania's largest statewide gathering of LGBTQ youth. The conference is organized by the Pennsylvania Youth Congress community – and is open to all young Pennsylvanians.

This conference is convened to coordinate youth action in Pennsylvania, so that together, we can chart new goals and achieve a more unified sense of direction. Delegations will be attending from all areas of Pennsylvania – including GSA leaders from high school, college, and university communities, as well recent alumni and non-student youth.

The opening session will be Friday, April 13 at 7:00pm. Saturday and Sunday will be devoted to policy briefings, trainings, workshops, caucuses, and committee work. The conference will conclude at noon on Sunday. The full conference agenda will be posted on the YAC website: [youthactionconference.com](http://youthactionconference.com).

### Presenting at the Conference

All session facilitators must arrive at least 15 minutes before their start time to be directed to their room. The YAC Planning Committee will work to make any possible noted accommodations in advance. Session facilitators are all invited to attend the full conference and Keystone banquet for a subsidized registration fee. More information on conference registration will be sent to those presenting.

The YAC Planning Committee would be glad to answer any questions about the gathering and accommodations.

## **The Pennsylvania Youth Congress (PYC)**

Founded in 2011, the Pennsylvania Youth Congress (PYC) represents Pennsylvania's statewide LGBTQ youth organization. As an entirely youth-led and youth-run coalition, PYC advances freedom and justice for young LGBTQ Pennsylvanians. Comprised of leaders from youth-led organizations across Pennsylvania, PYC works in educational institutions and local communities on behalf of young LGBTQ people. PYC is the first statewide youth-led LGBTQ organization in the nation. For more information please visit: [payouthcongress.org](http://payouthcongress.org).

The YAC is focused on providing expert trainings, policy forums, and advocacy strategy meetings as our workshop sessions. While we promote presenting the brief introductions of issues at the beginning of each session, the YAC Planning Committee will give the highest priority to accepting workshops which appeal to youth leaders at advanced levels of discourse. The YAC is an opportunity for established youth leaders to build their power, in contrast to more general youth conferences where most all the sessions are at introductory levels.

### **How to Submit a Session Proposal**

#### **Please read this document thoroughly before submitting your proposal**

#### **Workshop Criteria**

The YAC Planning Committee thanks you for your interest in submitting a session proposal. Upon submission, each proposal shall be reviewed by the YAC Planning Committee. During the review process, selections will be based upon the proposal's incorporation of the following criteria:

1. Keep the focus on **Tangible Practice**: At the end of your training workshop, participants should be provided the opportunity to use the skills or issues discussed in their own communities; and
2. We ask that your workshop promote **Participation and Dialogue**: The session that you will be facilitating should strongly engage participants, and encourage them to converse and brainstorm amongst themselves. The YAC promotes the use of personal experiences wherever possible. This should help to keep the workshop from becoming a lecture.

The YAC Planning Committee requests that workshop proposals not be fully designed as lectures. Your workshop should be an opportunity for substantial attendee participation. Dialogue should be encouraged among participants during these sessions. Proposals with more than three panelists will be given low priority.

## **Session Format**

Sessions are scheduled as a **75-minute workshop**. In these sessions, attendees should be given practical information and best practices regarding your topic. Technical assistance should be provided to help promote real-life utilization. The YAC Planning Committee requests that your workshop actively stimulate and engage attendees to promote as much participation and dialogue as possible. Presentation should be balanced to save time for meaningful group dialogue.

## **Topic Areas**

The YAC Planning Committee seeks session proposals that include and reflect the perspectives, needs and priorities of our youth-led LGBTQ advocacy movement, and in 2018, specifically as they relate healthcare in Pennsylvania.

The goal of the Youth Action Conference is to offer sessions which will provide training and dialogue to further Pennsylvania youth-led LGBTQ advocacy. We encourage you to consider a topic related to an item/s from the following list, or another topic that reflects the goal and mission of Pennsylvania youth-led LGBTQ advocacy.

### **Physical Healthcare**

HIV/AIDS: Then and Now

How to Educate Your Medical Professional on LGBTQ Healthcare

How to Make LGBTQ Spaces Inclusive of those with Invisible Illness

Supporting the Healthcare of Homeless LGBTQ Youth

LGBTQ Sex Ed 101 – The Lessons, and How to Bring it Back to Your School

Addressing LGBTQ Healthcare for Rural LGBTQ Pennsylvanians

Working with School Boards to Address LGBTQ Healthcare

Campus Health Centers Providing Services to LGBTQ Students

### **Mental Healthcare**

Suicide Prevention Advocacy

Challenging Mental Healthcare Stigma in the LGBTQ Community

Making Campus Counseling Centers LGBTQ-Inclusive and Affirming

Being Trauma Informed / Surviving Violence and Mental Healthcare

### **Substance Abuse**

Student Roundtable: What do I do as a student to help my friends experiencing substance abuse?

Community Roundtable: How do we best advocate for system and society-wide change to help those experiencing substance abuse?

Marketing to Harm: How Tobacco and Alcohol Companies Target LGBTQ Communities

### **Healthy Relationships**

Anti-LGBTQ Violence Academia and Research

Domestic Violence in the LGBTQ Community

How to Help Friends and Each Other with Intimate Partner Violence

## **Healthy Relationships (continued)**

How to be an Ally to Survivors  
Dating Apps and Hookup Culture  
Healthy Non-traditional Relationships / Exploring Polysexuality

## **General LGBTQ Sessions**

The Federal and State Political Landscapes for LGBTQ Equity  
LGBTQ Youth in the Pennsylvania Juvenile Detention System  
But All the Bureaucrats Are Boys: Messaging with Those in Power  
History of Urban/Rural LGBTQ Activism in the United States  
Introduction to Gender Identity and Expression  
Preventing Gender-based Violence  
Advanced Course on Non-binary Gender Expression  
Protecting LGBTQ Students in School  
Ending the School-to-Prison Pipeline for QTPOC Youth  
Building a Fierce GSA/QSA  
Making our Schools Trans-Accessible in Pennsylvania  
Gender-neutral Options, Housing, and Bathrooms at Colleges and Universities  
Making Greek Life Affirming for Trans Students  
Reaching Out to Closeted Students  
Handling Bias Incidents and Hate Crimes at School  
Advancing Community Support for Transgender Student Athletes  
Utilizing Safe Zone Programs to Improve Campus Climate  
Community Organizing 201: Empowering Sustainable and Adaptable Youth Leadership  
Making the Movement – Identity Intersectionality and Community Advocacy  
Addressing Cisgender Privilege and LGBTQ Community Stratification  
Youth Leadership – Exploring our Role in Youth-Led LGBTQ Advocacy

## **Presenter Hospitality**

CROWNE. Several nearby hotels are available, however, the YAC Planning Committee cannot subsidize outside lodging.

Please provide full contact information in your proposal. Unless otherwise specified, the presenter will be the session contact. The session contact will facilitate communication between the YAC Planning Committee and the workshop presenter. It is important to have a session contact in the case of any changes or updates to the YAC schedule.

It is expected that presentations will follow the outline and description provided in the proposal. Please alert us if your presentation will require a projector, blackboard, or other specific accommodations. Given ample notice, the YAC Planning Committee will work to provide the accommodations needed for presentations.

All sessions are currently scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Upon acceptance of proposals, the presenter will be notified of the specific time, date, and location of their session workshop.

## **Proposal Review**

The YAC Planning Committee will review proposals in the order in which they are received. Upon review, proposals will be considered on the basis of the following:

- Relevance to the aforementioned topics;
- Proposals that incorporate the Pennsylvania youth-led LGBTQ advocacy movement;
- Prerequisites, qualifications, expertise, and experience of the session facilitator/s, and;
- General strength of the proposal.

In order to have your session proposal considered for the YAC, please complete the online submission form [HERE](#). Required information includes:

- Session title
- A 200-word maximum session description for the conference agenda (will be published)
- Learning objectives (will not be published)
- Session walkthrough/timeline (will not be published)
- Contact information (will not be published)

Prospective presenters should expect to be notified of their proposal's status starting March 10, 2018.

**[To submit your session proposal](#)**  
**[PLEASE CLICK HERE](#)**

**Thank you for your interest in the Youth Action Conference 2018:**

***Alive to Thrive!***

**See you in Harrisburg, PA!**