



The Pennsylvania Student Equality Coalition

The Pennsylvania Youth Action Conference 2014:

Igniting a Pennsylvania Youth Movement for Trans* Justice and Freedom

Request for Proposals – Workshop Sessions

Submission Deadline: December 30, 2013

Notifications Begin: January 2, 2014

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 Student Equality Coalition (PSEC) Coordinating Committee – and is open to all Pennsylvania youth.

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.

The opening session will be Friday, February 14th at 7:00pm. Saturday and Sunday will be devoted to policy briefings, trainings, workshops, caucuses, and committee work. The conference will conclude in the late afternoon on Sunday. The full conference agenda will be posted on the YAC website:

www.youthactionconference.com

Presenting at the Conference

All session facilitators must arrive before their time block to register and be directed to their room. The YAC Planning Committee will work to make any possible accommodations which are made 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.

**You are welcome to contact the YAC Planning Committee with any questions at
info@pennsec.org or call 717-743-1035**

The Pennsylvania Student Equality Coalition (PSEC)

Founded in 2011, PSEC represents Pennsylvania's statewide LGBTQ youth organization. As an entirely youth-led and youth-run coalition, the organization is dedicated to advocacy across the Keystone state on safe schools and LGBTQ equality. Comprised of leaders from youth-led organizations across Pennsylvania, PSEC works in educational institutions and local communities on behalf of LGBTQ young people. PSEC is the first statewide youth-led LGBTQ organization in the nation. For more information please visit: www.pennsec.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 conferences set up for all audience 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 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 strongly 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 2014, specifically as they relate to transgender youth 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.

Exploring Gender Identity and Expression

Introduction to Gender Identity and Expression
Understanding Gender Identity; Science and Sociology
Preventing Gender Based Violence
Advanced Course on Non-binary Gender Expression
Trans* Identities and Relationships

Youth As a Movement (Internal)

Working on Trans* Issues in Faith Communities – The Proud, the Closeted, and the Resistant
Community Organizing 201: Empowering Sustainable and Adaptable Trans* 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
Breaking Barriers for Young Trans* People of Color

Youth As a Movement (External)

Federal and State Political Landscape for Transgender Equality
Approaches to Improving Trans* Healthcare in Pennsylvania
Transgender Youth in the Pennsylvania Juvenile Detention System
HIV/AIDS – The Impact on Transgender People and the Youth Generation
The History of Transgender Activism in the United States
Trans* Youth Homelessness

(continued)

Advocacy At School

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
Protecting Gender Identity Status at the High School Level

Presenter Hospitality

The YAC 2014 is organizing a community housing program to provide a limited number of no-cost housing options for youth conference presenters and attendees. 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 accommodations needed for presentations.

All sessions are currently scheduled to take place on Saturday, February 15th and Sunday, February 16th, 2014. 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
- Presentation synopsis (will not be published)
- A 50-75 word session description for the conference agenda (will be published)
- Session timeline (will not be published)
- Contact information (will not be published)

Prospective presenters should expect to be notified of their proposal's status starting January 2nd, 2014.

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

**Thank you for your interest in the Youth Action Conference 2014:
Igniting a Pennsylvania Youth Movement for Trans Justice and Freedom***

See you in Philadelphia!