

Youth Advisory Committee of Berks County Community Foundation

Membership Guidelines

The Youth Advisory Committee is a subcommittee of Berks County Community Foundation that supports youth-related issues and serves as a catalyst to strengthen youth involvement in the community. Therefore, YAC strives to include students from all Berks County's high schools in order to represent the voices of the youth of Berks County.

The YAC Advisor will interview and appoint YAC members in accordance with the following guidelines:

- I. The members of YAC shall include high school students in grades 9 -12 from Berks County.
- II. First year acceptance will not be given to students in grade 12.
- III. Preference for first year acceptance will be given to students in grades 9 and 10.
- IV. Once appointed, a YAC member can serve on the committee until he or she graduates from high school as long as the member is living in Berks County, actively participates on the committee, and meets attendance requirements.
- V. The YAC membership shall be representative of Berks County's diverse youth population.
- VI. The members of YAC will represent the area schools within Berks County.
- VII. A YAC member may serve on the committee if he or she lives in Berks County, but attends a school outside the county as long as the member actively participates on the committee and meets attendance requirements.
- VIII. The ideal number of representatives from each school is two students, but the committee will accept a maximum of four students from each school. Special consideration will be made if the following occurs:
 - a. The maximum number of students is not met for each school.
 - b. There are open spots for membership.
 - c. The applicant in question meets the criteria to be a strong contributor to YAC (See Appendix A).

- d. The applicant in question is a relative or immediate family member of the Community Foundation's board of directors or staff. Immediate family members include spouses, children, stepchildren, grandchildren, and step-grandchildren of active Board or staff members.
- IX. Special consideration will not be given to relatives or immediate family members of current or past YAC members. Immediate families include spouses, children, stepchildren, grandchildren and step-grandchildren.
- X. All students who were YAC members prior to June 28, 2011 may continue to serve on the committee until graduation as long as they participate and meet attendance requirements.

Appendix A

YAC Criteria

YAC members ...

- Have creative and innovative ideas.
- Are vocal and willing to discuss alternative ideas.
- Are dependable.
- Are enthusiastic about what they do.
- Are committed and interested in learning about the community.
- Aren't afraid to contribute, offer their opinions and take part in discussion.
- Are critical thinkers.