



SPECIAL OLYMPICS Project UNIFY®

National Youth Activation Committee Info Session
March 15, 2012

2 | TODAY'S CATEGORIES



- What is the National Youth Activation Committee (YAC)?
- YAC Member Commitment
- State Staff Commitment
- Requirements for Application
- Application Process
- Reflections on the Experience
- Questions?

3 | WHAT IS THE NATIONAL YAC?

- National Youth Activation Committee members are young people with and without intellectual disabilities from across the country who:
 - Work on committee-based projects that support national Project UNIFY initiatives
 - Act as national brand ambassadors and messengers at conferences and other events
 - Provide an example of youth leadership at the local, national and global level



4 | YAC MEMBER COMMITMENT

- To become a National YAC member, youth must commit to:
 - Serve a one-year term, that is renewable up to 3 years
 - Attend bi-annual, in-person meetings
 - Participate in 2-4 conference calls yearly
 - Participate in bi-weekly conference calls with an assigned committee
 - Spend approximately 5 hours per week working on YAC-related projects



5 | STATE STAFF COMMITMENT

- In support of a National YAC representative, state program staff commit to:
 - Attend bi-annual meetings as mentor and program representative
 - It is preferred that one individual maintain the relationship (and attend all meetings) to build a strong connection with YAC member
 - Continue to activate YAC member at a local level
 - Assist Project UNIFY staff in communicating with YAC member about upcoming projects and events

6 | REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION

- Must be between **14 and 18 years old**
- Unified pairs are preferred
 - It's ideal to have students from the same school, but not required (proximity within state is important)
 - Each individual in the pair must complete their own application
- State YAC members are strongly preferred
 - Local involvement/relationship with state program is required

7 | APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Review YAC additional information and details at www.specialolympics.org/YAC
2. Complete online application (available at site above)
3. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis by staff and YAC selection committee
4. Interviews will be conducted (via Skype) with final round applicants
5. Call with state staff to provide final recommendation
6. Applicant will be notified if they have been selected

8 | IMPORTANT DETAILS

- **THE ONLINE APPLICATION IS OPEN NOW**
- **ALL** applications must be submitted by **June 1, 2012**
- Interviews and staff calls will take place between **April 2012 and June 15, 2012**
- Selected applicants will be notified by **July 1, 2012** at the latest
- New YAC member terms will officially start in August

**We are looking to add 10 new members
(athletes and partners)**

9 | REFLECTIONS ON THE EXPERIENCE

“Through my experience with the YAC, I have not only gained the leadership skills needed to accomplish my dreams, but I have also gained the best feeling in the world – knowing that I have 19 other brothers and sisters that would do anything for me.”

Samantha Huffman
YAC member since 2008



10 | REFLECTIONS ON THE EXPERIENCE

“The National Youth Activation Committee is a group of leaders, friends, advocates and hard working people who want to make the world a better place for all people. The YAC youth are energetic and passionate to carry out social justice for all people.”

Clement Coulston
YAC member since 2009



11 | REFLECTIONS ON THE EXPERIENCE

Current National YAC Member

Kaitlyn Smith





QUESTIONS?

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