



**YOUNG KENTUCKIANS**

**YKAP**

**ADVOCACY PROGRAM**

## **Virtual Advocacy Training Program**

**October–November 2021**

The Young Kentuckians Advocacy Program, or YKAP, is a statewide advocacy training program for **high school students (grades 9–12)** in Kentucky. As a fully virtual program,

YKAP breaks down barriers of distance, providing a space for the Commonwealth's brightest and boldest young minds to connect. Students will work together to expand their abilities to make a positive change in their state and local communities. Through an advanced curriculum of workshops, networking, and special projects, student advocates develop real world skills, and work towards real world action.

**Learn more and apply at [kymca.org/YKAP](https://kymca.org/YKAP)**

# STATEWIDE AND FULLY VIRTUAL

YKAP is a program for students who want to make a difference in their community by sharpening their advocacy skills. Students will gain an understanding of public policy at the state and local level, build a network of peers and officials, and leave with stronger skills, better resources, and a more confident voice.

## YKAP CURRICULUM

Over the course of YKAP, students will engage in activities that cover:

- Learning about state and local issues
- Developing skills in research
- Building advocacy skills
- Understanding government policy systems
- Special guest and policy expert visits, including mentoring
- Networking and coalition building with peers
- Building a resume of tangible advocacy work
- Working towards concrete change
- Building confidence in public speaking and communication

## ALL ABOUT ACTION, NOT JUST TALK

Throughout YKAP, students will work towards tangible projects, including a written deliverable, participation in a student panel discussion, and a final project presenting a concrete plan to push for policy change in a topic of their choice.

### POLICY ISN'T JUST POLITICS

YKAP works to connect with a wide range of students' interests by showing how public policy effects every aspect of our lives.

### DEVELOPING SKILLS EVERY SESSION

Every YKAP session features at minimum one interactive workshop helping students develop a tangible skill for advocating for change.

## A FUN AND UNIQUE LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

As YKAP breaks new ground to be one of the most exciting online experiences for students in Kentucky, it also is a great opportunity for students eager to lead to step up to the plate. With fun and dynamic programming, YKAP embraces the joy of connectivity, and encourages that positive energy to grow and be shared across communities far and wide.

# PROGRAM STRUCTURE

YKAP 2021 consists of **7 sessions** over the course of 2 months, from **October to November**. Each session is an hour and a half long, and sessions will occur every week. Alongside in-session workshops, YKAP students will have **three advocacy projects** to complete throughout the program's duration: one main project that will be the program's culmination, and two smaller projects over the course of the program.

## 2021 PROGRAM DATES

All sessions are 5:30-7:00pm EST

|               |   |               |
|---------------|---|---------------|
| October 6th   | – | Session 1     |
| October 13th  | – | Session 2     |
| October 20th  | – | Session 3     |
| October 27th  | – | Session 4     |
| November 3rd  | – | Session 5     |
| November 10th | – | Session 6     |
| November 17th | – | Final Session |

## APPLICATION AND COST

YKAP is a competitive, application-based program, and with a limited capacity. We are looking for a diverse pool of candidates, and one that is representative of Kentucky as a whole. Applications must be submitted by **September 27th, 2021**, and announcement of accepted students will occur shortly thereafter.

**Student Y Members - \$100    Non-members - \$125**

YKAP participants will be billed once accepted into the program.

**Scholarships are available for YKAP!**

Visit [kymca.org/scholarship](http://kymca.org/scholarship) to learn more and apply!

## MAKE AN IMPACT

**SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION TODAY!**

[kymca.org/YKAP](http://kymca.org/YKAP)

**KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION**