

2026 AFFILIATE APPLICATION PACKET

FOR INDIVIDUALS



PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:

info@yvc.org
Attn: Affiliate Services Team
Subject: YVC Affiliate Application

OR

Youth Volunteer Corps Headquarters
1025 Jefferson Street
Kansas City, MO 64105



Dear Potential Partner,

Youth Volunteer Corps (YVC) is the largest network of global youth service programs. Since 1987, more than 330,000 young people ages 11-18 have served 5.4 million hours in YVC programs.

At the heart of every YVC affiliate is the belief that young people can make a difference in their communities and that they should be asked to do so. The benefits of that service, especially if done in a quality program, can last a lifetime. We believe that quality comes by having diverse youth serve in teams under the guidance of a trained team leader on projects designed in collaboration with local, reputable organizations.

YVC Headquarters is here to help you bring a tested youth service program to your community. We have learned a lot about youth and volunteering in the last four decades. We will share that knowledge with you while realizing the best ideas for improving our program always come from the field.

Information about becoming a Youth Volunteer Corps affiliate follows. Please let us know what questions and thoughts you have. Thank you for considering joining our Youth Volunteer Corps family.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy Hale". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tracy Hale
Chief Executive Officer



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OVERVIEW

The YVC Network

Youth Volunteer Corps (YVC) began in 1987 as a summer service program for Kansas City youth. Today, the YVC network consists of various nonprofits, municipal departments, schools, and individuals – “affiliates” – who have all committed to creating consistent, high quality, team-based volunteer opportunities for diverse youth age 11-18 to address pressing community needs and become inspired.

Current affiliates include United Ways, YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs, volunteer centers, independent youth-serving organizations, parks and recreation departments, and even individuals. (Find our current locations at www.yvc.org/volunteer/find-a-yvc.) Each YVC looks a little different depending on the host organization and the local community, but they all implement the same program model and receive ongoing support and resources from YVC Headquarters.

What sets YVC apart is the intentional quality built into each project. Any youth can call an agency and volunteer, but YVC’s team-based, supervised, flexible service-learning opportunities offer a truly transformational experience. If you are interested in changing youth’s lives, serving unmet community needs and celebrating diversity, join the movement by submitting the [application](#) on page three.

A Very Brief History

While researching his senior thesis Williams College in 1985, a man named David Battey visited existing service organizations and interviewed leaders in the newly forming youth service field. He found that while volunteer opportunities were randomly available through schools and religious groups, there were no consistent, challenging, community-based opportunities for youth of diverse backgrounds.

Developing a framework for such a program, Battey returned to his hometown of Kansas City and established the Youth Volunteer Corps. Seventy-six YVC youth volunteers served in the summer of 1987, and over 35 years later, YVC has grown into a global network of programs that has engaged more than 330,000 youth in 5.4 million hours of service.

Our Mission

We engage youth in team-based service experiences that build life and work skills while inspiring a lifetime ethic of service.

Our Four Fundamental Goals

1. Engage youth in service projects that are challenging, rewarding and educational.
2. Serve the needs of the community and its residents.
3. Cultivate a greater understanding and appreciation for diversity.
4. Promote a lifetime ethic of service in youth.



PROGRAM STANDARDS & HOST REQUIREMENTS

Program Standards

These eight program standards reflect the attributes we have identified over the years as being essential to a strong YVC program. Each local affiliate looks a little different as they reflect the communities they serve, but all adhere to these standards. YVC Headquarters provides comprehensive recommendations and best practices for implementing each of these to local YVC leadership.

1. Conduct frequent, supervised, team-based service projects that address a variety of important community needs.
2. Recruit youth ages 11-18 who represent the diversity of the program's community.
3. Assign a program director responsible for managing the program.
4. Establish an integrated education and reflection process for participants.
5. Provide leadership opportunities for youth volunteers.
6. Use the trademark Youth Volunteer Corps name and logo prominently in close coordination with the name and logo of the YVC host.
7. Provide no financial inducement for youth volunteer participation.
8. Participate in the YVC program evaluation process.

Host Requirements

In addition to the official eight YVC program standards listed above, YVC hosts are expected to comply with the following expectations, most of which are outlined in the YVC affiliate agreement.

1. Ensure strong mission and/or strategic alignment with YVC's mission and goals.
2. Designate an individual to serve as YVC Headquarters' ongoing contact who is responsible for the continuity and ongoing development of the program. In your first years as an affiliate, this individual is likely to be yourself.
3. Participate in an introductory training designed by YVC Headquarters.
4. Train future YVC staff and team leaders. Affiliates may opt to send YVC personnel to future YVCHQ trainings at the affiliate's expense.
5. Pay affiliation dues and any required fees (i.e. one-time start-up fee and Summit registration fee if applicable) within 30 days of invoice.
6. Encourage participation in and plan for budgetary requirements of YVC activities such as the annual Summit, workshops, regional trainings, etc.
7. Inform YVC Headquarters of any research conducted by the affiliate regarding its YVC program.
8. Notify YVC Headquarters promptly of any decision to terminate or significantly change the nature of its YVC operations, including vacancy of the program director position.
9. Carefully screen any individual 18 years of age or older who will be working alone with youth and adopt/implement a youth protection policy.
10. Plan at least one service project for YVC Day (first Saturday in March each year) and make every effort to participate in other national service events such as MLK Day, National Volunteer Week, Global Youth Service Day, Earth Day, 9/11 Day of Remembrance, National Disaster Preparedness Month, Make a Difference Day, Veterans Day, and Family Volunteer Day.



INDEPENDENT YVC APPLICATION

Youth Volunteer Corps affiliates are members of a global family of programs that share the goal of engaging 11-18 year olds in high-quality service. This application is a first step that allows us to evaluate the experience level and capacity of individuals considering launching YVC independently.

Date:		
Name:		
Occupation (if applicable):		
Mailing Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Phone:	Email:	
How did you become aware of the opportunity to affiliate? Have you had communication or experience with current YVC affiliates?		
Why do you want to launch Youth Volunteer Corps?		

Please describe how previous experiences have equipped you to work with youth ages 11-18 and facilitate team-based service-learning. (Your resume will also be required.)

Is there a program like YVC in your area? If so, how will you collaborate?

Partnerships

Please list three current partners with whom you collaborate on an ongoing basis. If you are just starting out, list three organizations you would like to partner with and why.

Partner #1

Name:

Nature of Partnership:

Partner #2

Name:

Nature of Partnership:

Partner #3

Name:

Nature of Partnership:

Board of Directors or Steering Committee

Please list three stakeholders whom have agreed to serve on your founding board of directors or steering committee. If you are just starting out, identify three stakeholders you might ask to serve.

Stakeholder #1

Name:

Title:

Organization:

Stakeholder #2

Name:

Title:

Organization:

Stakeholder #3

Name:

Title:

Organization:

Funding

Please list three funders (individuals, foundations, corporations, grant programs, etc.) with whom you have already discussed YVC or have researched for potential YVC funding.

Potential Funder #1

Potential Funder #2

Potential Funder #3

Please describe additional fundraising plans or sources (crowdfunding campaign, use of personal funds, door-to-door, etc.)

Do you foresee issues with paying the annual affiliation dues?

Programming

Geographic area to be served by your YVC program (city, part of a city, county, region):

Do you plan to host YVC service projects year-round, only summer, or only school year?

When is your projected launch date (day of first YVC project)?

Will you incorporate all eight YVC program standards within six months after your initial training? If not, check the corresponding standard and explain any foreseeable challenges below.

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5. Provide leadership opportunities for youth volunteers.
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8. Participate in the program evaluation process.

Explanation:

Describe your plan to launch YVC. What are your first year goals? (Consider school-based vs. community-based projects, school partners, recruitment tactics, informing stakeholders, etc.)

Additional Comments:



Additional Resources Required

In addition to completing the application above, please provide:

- Your resume
 - (2) Letters of recommendation (References cannot be related. Examples of acceptable references include potential funders, school leaders, agency staff, former employers, etc.)
1. Email your completed application and attachments to your primary contact at YVCHQ or info@yvc.org, subject "YVC Affiliate Application" or mail to:

Youth Volunteer Corps Headquarters
1025 Jefferson Street
Kansas City, MO 64105

2. YVC Headquarters will reply to confirm your application was submitted successfully and include a timeline for what to expect within the coming months. Applications are kept confidential and neither YVC nor the applicant is bound in any way by their submission.
3. Your application will be reviewed by the Affiliate Services Team within two weeks of submission. You may be contacted if more information is required.
4. If your application passes its preliminary review, YVC Headquarters will request an interview.
5. If you are accepted for affiliation after the interview, you will be sent the YVC affiliation agreement and an invoice for affiliation dues and start-up fee.
6. When your signed YVC affiliation agreement and dues are returned, YVC's president and board chair will sign the agreement and return to you a final version.
7. Welcome to the YVC Family! YVC Headquarters will contact you to schedule training.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the timeline to apply?

A: Applications are reviewed and affiliations are granted on a year-round basis.

Q: What should be included in our annual YVC budget?

A: Affiliates determine their annual YVC budget by counting all potential YVC-related costs, many of which are outlined below. Note: Expenses vary, especially for emerging YVC programs

- YVC staff salaries and benefits commensurate with time devoted to overseeing and/or implementing the YVC program
- YVC staff training/development (outside of initial training provided by YVC Headquarters)
- YVC-related travel costs and mileage reimbursement
- YVC project supplies
- YVC Summit expenses
- YVC affiliation dues
- The portion of your fundraising costs commensurate with YVC's portion of your overall budget
- YVC website and other marketing materials
- The portion of administrative support and overhead related to YVC, including rent, utilities, office supplies, hardware/software, phone/internet, website hosting, payroll fees, accounting fees, audit fees, staff recognition items, etc.

Q: When do most programs offer service projects?

A: While nearly all YVC affiliates are year-round, affiliates can choose to offer service projects in one of the following formats:

- An intense camp-like summer program with multi-day projects
- An ongoing school-year program with after school, weekend and school break projects
- Both! (year-round)

Q: What does the evaluation process required by program standard #8 consist of?

A: For affiliates, evaluation is critical to measuring and improving impact, properly allocating resources, and demonstrating the program's value to YVC leadership, funders, and other stakeholders. For YVC Headquarters, the qualitative and quantitative data from affiliates is combined with research from independent evaluations to provide vital, well-rounded evidence for the effectiveness of the program model, which is crucial to the improvement, sustainability and growth of the YVC movement.

Every YVC affiliate has access to Ydat.org – a custom-built, web-based software that can track and report data on volunteers, projects, schools, agency partners and more.

1. Year-round affiliates must participate in YVC's internal evaluation program. YVC Headquarters will contact YVC program directors to complete an evaluation, typically conducted each fall.
2. All affiliates must collect and submit YVC statistics as requested annually. Required fields include youth volunteer demographics and number of projects, agencies, hours, and youth. Affiliates are

required to use Ydat, YVC's web-based data management system, for program data unless otherwise agreed.

3. All affiliates must collect and keep individual applications/profiles and parent waivers for each* youth volunteer. You may utilize the waivers provided by YVC Headquarters or use your own provided it includes the required elements.
4. All affiliates are required to ensure youth volunteers reaching 30 hours of service complete the YVC Youth Survey. Surveys are administered online via Ydat. Surveys may be completed on paper, but must also be recorded in Ydat by a YVC staff member.
5. All affiliates must classify every service project into one or more [strategic Focus Area](#) (SFA): Compassionate Communities, Healthy Lifestyles, Arts/Culture, STEM & Environment, and Education.
6. All affiliates must participate in any independent evaluations coordinated by YVC Headquarters.

** Obstacles may prevent collecting data from every youth (privacy issues, large days of service, elusive parents, etc.) but YVC Headquarters expects affiliates to make every effort to do so.*

Q: Who should attend the initial training with YVC Headquarters and what can they expect?

A: The individual(s) who will serve in the program director role and oversee the day-to-day operations of the program should attend the initial training. Attendees will walk through the YVC program standards one-by-one to learn how to successfully implement each according to their local community needs and organizational capacity. This includes community mapping, project planning, recruiting youth volunteers, service-learning and the basics of working with youth. There are also tutorials of our volunteer management software Ydat, and the online resource library. For group trainings, attendees will have a chance to get to know and learn from each other too.

Q: What can I do between the acceptance of our application and training at YVC Headquarters?

A: In order to set the stage for a strong, sustainable YVC program that can get off the ground quickly, we strongly encourage new affiliates to:

- **Develop community support and service potential.** It is our experience the sustainability of a YVC program is closely linked to support from the community. By bringing together community leaders, agency and school representatives, potential funders, youth and other interested parties into the initial planning process, hosts can better assess their community's needs and the assets available to them for launching and sustaining a strong YVC. Consider reaching out to youth, other youth-serving organizations, school officials, local nonprofits, current and potential funders and local community, business and government leaders and ask:
 - What other volunteer opportunities are available to local youth and how can YVC collaborate?
 - Are there a variety of local agencies that will accept groups of youth volunteers?
 - Will local schools allow YVC to recruit youth? In what way?
 - Are local youth interested in YVC?
 - Is YVC something local leaders and funders can get behind? How can they help?
 - Which current or potential partners could help sustain the program?
- **Establish a steering committee.** For some affiliates, it may be wise to organize a group of committed individuals, *especially youth*, to assist with the initial planning or simply act as

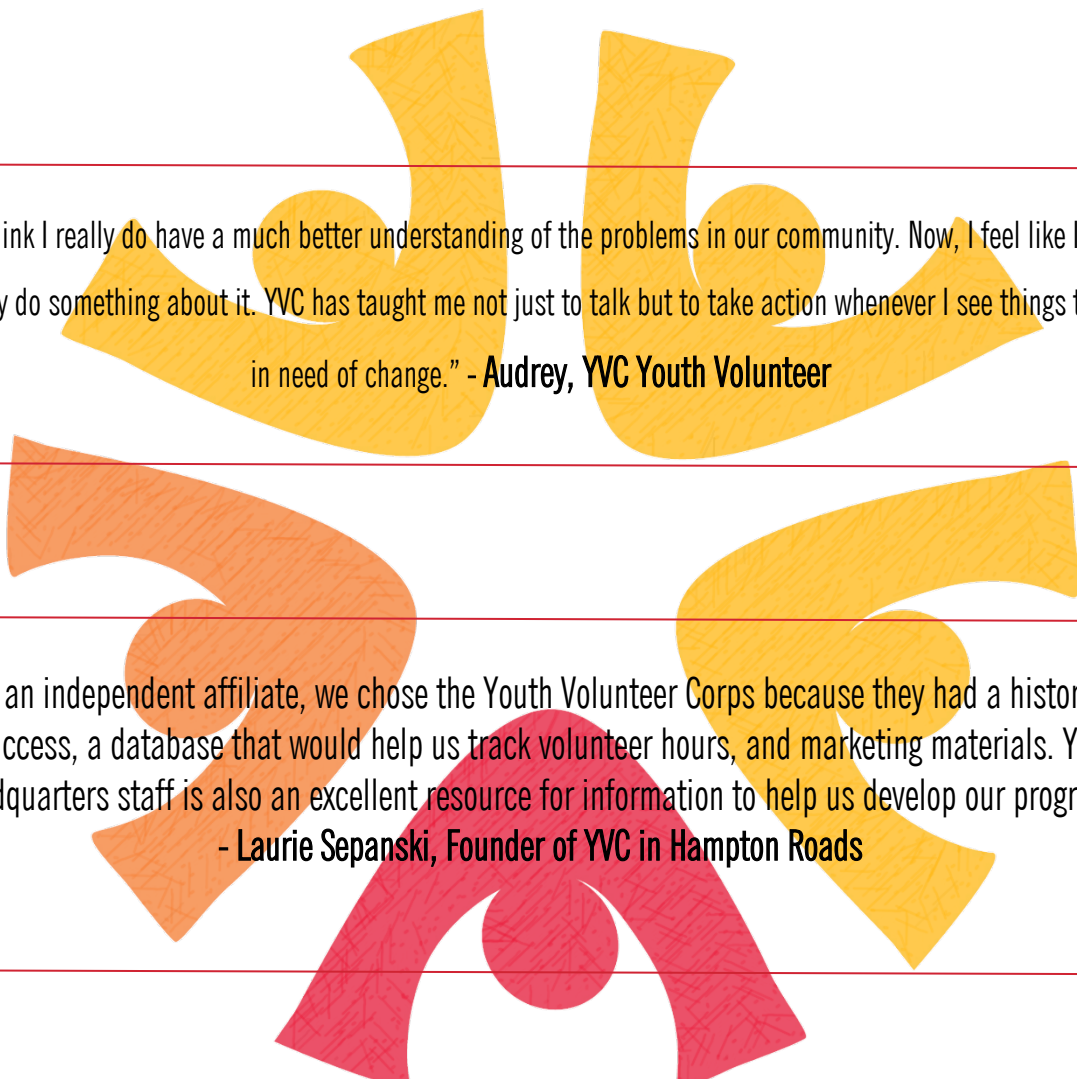
advocates for your YVC. A steering committee may consist of leaders from the groups you consulted above along with yourself. Committee tasks may include:

- Solidifying and maintaining community support
 - Determining the program's operating budget
 - Fundraising
- **Investigate funding resources.** Since fundraising is an ongoing process, it is important that you approach it from a long-term perspective. Developing and implementing a comprehensive fundraising strategy is crucial to YVC program success. Reach out to YVC Headquarters for fundraising strategies and materials while you investigate the potential for funding from:
- Individuals
 - Foundations
 - Corporations
 - Local, State, and Federal Programs
 - United Way
 - Youth Courts, Juvenile Justice Programs and School Districts

Q: What else should I consider beyond what has been outlined in this packet?

A: Here is some additional food for thought for those considering YVC affiliation:

- How would running a YVC program help your community?
- Do you have a history of successful program management? Experience working with youth?
- Do you have sufficient time and financial resources to run a YVC program?
- Do local school districts require service hours and/or offer incentives for service?
- Will local schools allow you to recruit youth for YVC projects? Will local schools allow you to facilitate YVC projects in the classroom?
- Are there any regional networks, local/state policies or funding opportunities that promote and support youth engagement?



“I think I really do have a much better understanding of the problems in our community. Now, I feel like I can actually do something about it. YVC has taught me not just to talk but to take action whenever I see things that are in need of change.” - **Audrey, YVC Youth Volunteer**

“As an independent affiliate, we chose the Youth Volunteer Corps because they had a history of success, a database that would help us track volunteer hours, and marketing materials. YVC Headquarters staff is also an excellent resource for information to help us develop our program.”
- **Laurie Sepanski, Founder of YVC in Hampton Roads**
