

2006 Annual Conference
New Orleans, LA
June 22-28, 2006

Topic: Youth Participation Coordinator Guidelines & Policies

Background: Due to the increase of the number of programs at conferences as well as the increased desire for teen participation, it is necessary to put some procedures in place to ensure that the Youth Participation Coordinator will be able to successfully coordinate the effort to involve teens at YALSA programs. The document below is a proposed handbook for the Youth Participation Coordinator. The Executive Committee is recommending that this document be adopted and that the section called Policies Relating to Youth Participation be added to the YALSA Handbook and the Committee Chair Manual, which is currently in development.

Action Required: Decision

The need for these procedures stems from past problems with teen participation, specifically the problem with members who have done the following:

- Brought their teens to conference programs for multiple consecutive years which limited the number of local teens that could participate
- Brought teens in from out of state and/or across the country from where the conference was being held which limited the number of local teens that could participate
- Brought teens in who were not invited by the YP Coordinator and/or “invited” themselves and their teens to attend
- Complained when teens did not receive free passes for the entire conference
- Abused the free passes by demanding them for large numbers of “chaperones”
- Brought teens who were not adequately prepared to participate in conference programs
- Tried to unduly influence the committee by coaching teens on what to say about particular books

Youth Participation Coordinator Handbook – Draft

Purpose of the Position

YALSA places the principles of youth development as well as youth participation as one of its priority areas. The purpose of the Youth Participation Coordinator is to oversee the effort to ensure that there is adequate involvement of teens in YALSA programs at conferences and at other events, where appropriate. The goal is to recruit local teens to participate at each Midwinter and Annual meeting. As ALA travels to different locations for each conference, then YALSA will be able to hear from teens across the nation.

Scope of the Position

- The Youth Participation Coordinator works closely with committee and program chairs and local librarians to locate local young adults to speak at conference programs and makes arrangements for them to attend and participate in the programs.
- He or she may also recruit young adults for participation in other YALSA activities, including publications, special projects and web-based initiatives.

Position Description

The Youth Participation Coordinator works with the chairs of committees who wish to have local teen participation. As part of this effort the YP Coordinator:

- Educates committee chairs as to the correct procedures for obtaining teens for their programs
- Locates and invites local teens through their advisors, sponsoring agencies or schools
- Works with advisors on preparing the teens to speak in front of committees
- Provides committee chairs with the names of the teens and their groups prior to conference
- Ensures that the teens are adequately thanked for their participation. This includes working with the YALSA office to provide exhibit passes to teens and chaperones
- Attends relevant YALSA meetings, such as All Committee, at the Midwinter and Annual Conferences
- Completes pre and post conference reports for Midwinter and Annual
- Corresponds regularly with teen advisors and YALSA committee chairs.

Policies Relating to Youth Participation

- When making arrangements for teen conference participants, the YP Coordinator will seek teens that are local to the city where the conference is being held. Only those teens that are officially invited by the YP Coordinator are eligible to participate in YALSA conference programs.

- *o n y o oc d n d t n y co t o t cty t*
co t o t no o t n t t y nt cty nt d
- *o n t o t t n t o o t t y y co n*
. t n n o c t y n o to o c y y n
M d n o Ann n t Y o o d n o n o t o nd n d n
n o oc t n

- The Youth Participation Coordinator will first contact local librarians through the Local Arrangements Committee to find interested teen groups.
 - If an adequate number of local teens cannot be located through this means, *o t o co n* then it is appropriate for the YP Coordinator to post a message requesting local teens on YALSA’s discussion lists. The YP Coordinator may also work with the YALSA Office to find local teens.
- An optimum number of teens for the BBYA teen feedback session are 30-50 teens.
- Efforts will be made to obtain a wide diversity of teen representation.

Before the Conference – Youth Participation Coordinator Guidelines

- Contact committee chairs and teen chaperones to obtain feedback about the teen experience.
- Fill out the online Post Conference Committee Planning Form

If these guidelines are adopted, the National Youth Participation Guidelines in the YALSA Handbook will need updating. Here they are with the proposed changes in red italics:

YALSA Handbook
National Youth Participation Guidelines

DEFINITION Involvement of young adults, ages 12 through 18, in responsible action and significant services for their peers and the community.

INTRODUCTION Although the concept of youth participation is neither foreign nor new, the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) recognizes the need for a framework to facilitate the process of having young adults, ages 12 through 18, participate in any American Library Association activities at the national level.

Each committee or program chair is responsible for assessing the potential for the involvement of young adults, setting parameters for participation that specify objectives and outcomes a

Requests to attend: Invitations *to ocu t n o t n o* to attend a committee meeting or participate in programs or other events will be extended by the *Yo t u t c u on oo d n u o*.

Registration: Committee or program chairs should make name badges for young adults attending their programs, and send requests to the YALSA Office for guest exhibitor passes.

Conference expenses: Any expense relating to conference attendance is the responsibility of the youth participant, unless other arrangements have been approved by the division or unit.

Evaluation: As a part of the evaluation for programs and committee activities, chairs will assess the impact of youth participation in a report to the Youth Participation Coordinator.

POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES

Creation of a YALSA teen a

Opinion about the issue from Karyn Silverman, who is unable to attend the Board meeting, but wanted to provide input:

! ..

\$\$ %

!
!
& &
% &
j 3. 48462. 25282 (9) 90d (6) j(j8)36j658 470 39d (0d) (10j.) 92 98980

'

"
!
!
+
'
- .//O