

New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

Governor

Zahraa Abdul

Years in Youth and Government: 3

Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:

As a freshman, I chose lobbying because I loved giving my opinion and I fell in love with it. My first year, I was nominated for Best Lobbyist award. I also won Best Delegate award for District 2 in 2019. The following year, I was a CLC and I was also the Liason for the Albany branch for my district. At state conference, I was honored to be awarded Best Lobbyist award again. That summer, I had the incredible privilege to attend the Conference on National Affairs where my proposal made it to third committee. Following that, I did Y-Corps which was an amazing week full of service. This year, I am serving as the Head Lobbyist both on the State and District level. This past fall, I attended the Middle School conference where I met some of the smartest and brightest middle scholars in the state. Outside of Youth and Government, I'd like to consider myself an avid volunteer. I am also involved in Rallying All for Gender Equality and Peace and Social Actions. All in all, all of my experiences and qualifications shaped me up to be the leader that I am today who I know will be thrilled to lead all of you.

Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?

I am seeking this office position due to the simple fact that Youth and Government has given so much to me over these last three years, and now is my chance to at least attempt to give back a portion of what was given to me by this program. I feel as if I can offer a unique perspective and take on what YAG can truly help you achieve within yourself and within your community. As the head lobbyist for this year, I have had to learn a lot on my own and ask for help when needed. Because of this, I feel as if I can thrive and help others thrive as well. Being a presiding officer this past year has shown me the behind the scenes of YAG which has just given me more reasons to appreciate the program and more reasons to want to serve. As a lobbyist, I've taken a lot of time to go through bills, analyze them very closely, and have had the responsibility of tearing them down or building them up. If selected as one of the leaders, what I will offer is an endless amount of attention to any issue that requires it. I will not hesitate to put myself out there as a resource for everyone. What I can also offer for certain is a clear chain of communication. Delegates WILL stay updated and they will stay in the loop of everything that is going on, good or bad.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:

Servant leadership to me is the act of supporting and helping people reach their goals. As a leader, you have to learn that to lead is to not always being in power. You have a duty to strive to be the best you can and help those who need it most. Governor, as a position, is a very demanding role that requires an abundant amount of support from every other single person in power. That will definitely include a lot of allocation of assignments. If elected as governor, I will try my absolute hardest to represent everyone equally, to always be a voice you can count on and to always try my best to understand no matter what the situation is. One of my goals for 2021 is to simply make sure that everyone knows that they are being heard and that they are never going to be put last in YAG. My number one goal is to simply make everyone understand the progress that they are able to make with the proper resources.

