

# New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

## Deputy Pro Tempore of Senate Freedom

### Victoria Guzzi

Years in Youth and Government: 2

#### **Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

I have been in Youth and Government for four years and for those years I have devoted myself to helping those around me write bills, ask questions, and debate.. This year I was given the honor of serving as Commissioner of Agriculture in the Executive Cabinet. As Commissioner I have learned how to connect better with the delegates of New York State, understanding their viewpoints and taking into consideration how different choices affect them. Currently, I am the legislative secretary of my district and play a vital role in organizing bills and keeping everyone on track to having a successful conference. As secretary, I have the ability to keep everyone in my district up to date and connected. Last November, I had the privilege to join other high school delegates in assisting in the Middle School Conference. I helped teach the delegates proper parliamentary procedure, guided the students through presentations, and served as a leader for the students to go to if they had any problems. Throughout the conference I witnessed the middle schoolers evolve into mature and professional delegates who were confident and self-assured. Under my leadership, I want to see the delegates of this conference and future conferences find their voice and evolve into confident leaders as well.

**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?** As Deputy Pro Tempore of Senate Freedom, I will be someone for the delegates to trust and rely on if they become overwhelmed or simply need some words of encouragement. Thanks to the previous PO boards and leadership at both state and local levels, I have become more confident in myself and my opinions. I know that from past experiences that most delegates, feel uncomfortable around large groups of people they do not know. By being Deputy Pro Tempore I will ensure the delegates feel at ease when around these groups, through the use of activities such as icebreakers and team-building games and exercises to allow for the delegates to grow bonds with one another. This way, the delegates will have grown amazing friendships with one another and will be excited for the next conference. Furthermore, I will help delegates with bills and the ins and outs of bill writing, gathering statistics and information, drafting introductions, refining conclusions, strengthening their overall bill presentation, and any other problems they may encounter. As Deputy Pro Tempore, it will be my priority to assure that every single delegate is comfortable and excited to meet new delegates and present their spectacular bills, similar to how past leadership of this program have done for me.

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

Servant leadership is the ability to lead a group by putting the needs of others before your own; it's showing those you lead that their thoughts and opinions are respected and are important. As Deputy Pro Tempore of Senate Freedom, I will guarantee that every delegate's voice is heard throughout the duration of the conference, and further encourage newer delegates to step out of their comfort zones, raise their placards, and participate. It's easy to believe that the chair will receive respect because of their position but at times it is overlooked that chairs should earn this respect by giving their delegates the same admiration. As a chair of Senate Freedom, I will ensure that the delegates know their words have meaning and that they matter to everyone listening—I never want someone to feel as though no one is listening to them.

