

New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

Speaker of Assembly Freedom

Orion Crossman

Years in Youth and Government: 2

Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:

I have 2 Albany conferences under my belt. In my first year, I was an attorney and in my second year, which was my freshman year, I was able to become the secretary of labor and be a part of governor Nick Imam's cabinet. In the cabinet is where I shined and learned a lot about the program as a leader gaining tons of experience from some of Youth & Government's finest. I also learned a lot about what makes a good bill and what does not, plus some common mistakes. This taught me how to support others in bill crafting. I have also been selected as an alternate delegate for the Conference on National Affairs (CONA) two years in a row. This summer though, I had two huge honors. I was able to attend the National Judicial Competition (NJC) in Chicago and represent New York on a mock trial team. The second and biggest honor I had this summer was to be a part of the Y-Corps service team and travel across the east coast completing community service projects every single day, learning to participate not anticipate. I am also the youth mayor of Teens Take The City, a program that is a New York City-based version of Youth & Government where we hold our conferences in Borough Hall in Brooklyn as well as the official New York City Council chamber. I have learned how to run a YMCA Youth & Government program from top to bottom, as well as learned what it means to be a chair. But most importantly, I learned how to be a servant leader and serve my peers. In the summer, after I was elected, I also helped with the implementation of a new curriculum for the program.

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'm seeking this office out of my passion and love for Youth & Government that I have had for many years. This is a program that has turned my life around and taught me so many useful life skills. It has given me a passion for politics that I didn't even know I had. It has made me friends all across this beautiful and diverse state that we all call home and even across the country. I seek this office because with my experience in this program and with the YMCA, I feel that I am best qualified to hold the office. I feel I have all of my experience to offer to every single delegate, whether it's their first or fifth and final year in the program, I will be willing to help. I have my experience to offer to help me manage a chamber as well as to handle all the work that comes with being the speaker of a chamber. The most important thing I will have to offer though is my hard work and dedication for this program. If elected I will be a servant leader for every single delegate who needs help.

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

For me, servant leadership is simple. It's helping those in need, going out of your way just to put a smile on their face and help them. It's helping the first-year delegate in your district who's afraid to speak up and debate get over the fear that we all once had and be courageous and speak his mind. Another example would be helping someone find a statistic that you know they are looking for. I would incorporate servant leadership if I got elected by putting the delegates of my chamber first as well as being a friend and mentor to everyone in my chamber, not an enemy. I would work to make sure everyone reaches their full potential and has the best time possible in Albany. I would work to make sure every delegate leaves The Desmond wanting to come back the next year and with the biggest smile on their face just like I have for the past two years. If elected, I will lead with servant leadership like all those before me have.

