

# New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

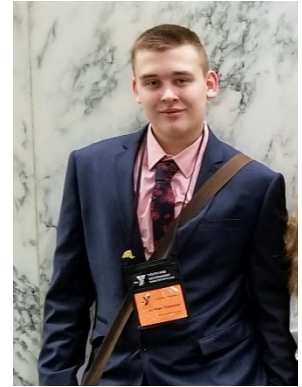
## Deputy Speaker of Assembly Liberty

### Nathan Slawson

Years in Youth and Government: 3

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

This is my third year in Youth and Government and my fourth conference. I received the Outstanding Delegate reward my first year in the program and currently serve on the Conference Life Committee and as a Committee Chair. I am the tenth grade class president, the high school press secretary, the vice-president of my school's Youth and Government club, and serve as an elected officer in every extra-curricular I participate in. Additionally, I was selected to be the single representative from my grade to attend the HOBY youth leadership conference.



#### 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 the position of Deputy Speaker of Assembly Liberty, to not only further my involvement in this program, but to ensure that there is always a friend delegates can approach. This conference can be an intimidating venture for many students. I was among the many absolutely terrified to attend my first high school conference in my eighth grade year. Not only was it my first high school conference, it was my brand new district's, all nine of us. My nine person district was the first new district in the high school program in decades. That number was scary to say the least. When I arrived at the conference, I expected no one to pay any mind to me. Luckily, that was far from the truth. One thing I have learned from my experience in this program is that it brings out the kindest in people. I want to repay this program and its participants the help it has given me. Being in the shoes of one of the clueless really humbled me. In recent years, a number of new schools have joined the program and have decades of catching up to do in comparison with the other long standing districts. I wish to be a resource to these students who are figuring out their way.

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

Servant leadership, to me, is surrendering oneself to the others. Our proud nation was built upon the idea of servant leadership. One person representing all - the majority and the minority. In recent years, this ideology has begun to unravel. This program has taught me that nobody is without a voice. This program serves as an equal playing field for all who participate. Servant leadership is a system of receiving and giving; leaders receive requests to improve the state and give back results based on the grievances of the people. Servant leadership is a system of mutual respect. Without respect and teamwork, no change is possible. In servant leadership, the leader holds no true power and without the people no change is warranted. The "leader" serves more as a figurehead than anything else. The sole power that servant leaders possess is the power to make change and only at the discretion of the people they serve.