

New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

Public Defender

Andrew Fullone

Years in Youth and Government: 3

Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:

My leadership experience in Youth and Government has ranged over my time in the club, with each year providing me with the tools to serve. I began as an attorney, where I was fortunate to win my case both years. As an attorney, I found it imperative to not only help my peers in my district, but continue to help others even after arriving in Albany. This year I was chosen to serve as a justice. I am thankful to have gained a significant amount of confidence in my abilities, which I owe to the leaders in the program who helped me and I hope to do the same for my peers. I am on the steering committee for District 1 and spend time planning our meetings and organizing the judicial agenda for meetings. Outside of Youth and Government, I have completed a variety of leadership accomplishments, including completing my Eagle Scout project and helping to lead a variety of different service trips.



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?

One main reason why I am seeking to become the new Public Defender is because I always wanted to challenge myself to accomplish something that I have never done before. Becoming the Public Defender has been one of my dreams ever since my first year when I saw them arguing their case in front of the conference at large. In addition to this, I feel as if this position would help me to develop better leadership skills. I have always looked up to previous officers, even as a small freshman, and admired how great leaders they are, and this has inspired me to run for Public Defender. If I'm selected to lead my peers for next year's conference, I will make sure that I am listening to all voices, even the newer members of the club to make sure that they feel more included than before. I will make it my goal to make sure that everyone at the conference feels accepted and I promise that I am going to work to continue to improve this club.

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

A servant leader is someone who puts the needs of others in front of themselves, and works their hardest to help others before themselves. If I am elected as the new public defender, I will make it my goal to make sure that all new members entering into the program feel more accepted and confident. It can be very difficult for new members to come to Youth and Government and feel accepted when they do not understand what is going on. In addition to this, I will make it my goal to make sure that all the advice from previous club members is heard in order to continue to improve the club. I want advice from all members to be heard because everyone's opinion matters, especially in a club that is run by elected officials. In addition to this, I will make it my goal to increase interdistrict communication in order to help members become better prepared by being in communication with other districts. There have not been many times in my Youth and Government career where I have communicated with other districts before going to the conference, and this is one main difference that I would like to make.