

New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

Public Defender

Alina Heyer

Years in Youth and Government: 2

Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:

My YAG career actually started in eighth grade. Homer is unique in how small it is compared to other districts, so our Middle School club is very unofficial and doesn't go to the state conference; however, participating still gave me that push to become more interested in the program and learning about our government. My freshman year I started as a Case A attorney. The next year, I was moved up to Case C and this year I have the wonderful opportunity to be working as a justice for my district. I am also one of the chosen students to be able to be a CLC member this year, and work with others from across the state to make our State Conference the best it can be. Outside of Youth and Government, I am the Treasurer of my school's Student Government, Historian of Student Council, and a member of most of Homer's clubs including Link Crew, International club, Yearbook, and FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America). All of these experiences have really helped to teach me important lessons about leadership, hard work, and determination.

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?

Youth and Government has been such a positive impact on my life and I want to help other people enjoy it as much as I do. I have always dealt with very severe social anxiety but through the wonderful leaders in this program I have been able to overcome this roadblock and become a much better public speaker. As a result of this I want to be able to influence people the way the current and past officers have influenced me. Throughout my YAG experience I have had the pleasure to work with and meet many great individuals whom I look up to. I want to be this figure in someone else's life, and this is why I am running for this position.

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

Servant leadership is putting others before yourself. Your job as a servant leader is to not tell people what to do but to help them do it. Through my many leadership roles in and outside of this program I have learned that your impact is the most important thing. The way you help others affects their work, their perspective of the program, and the leader they will one day become. Although the Public Defender doesn't work directly with many of the Youth and Government members, they are still a key part in the learning experience that is this program. If elected as Public Defender I would make sure to incorporate servant leadership into my work with those involved in this program by being available to help any attorney or justice in the program in order to help them be the best person they want to be.

