



Act & Advance: Syllabus

APPLY NOW: <https://forms.gle/LGbs7y9ymNeAcWfy8>

Priority Application Deadline: Closes Apr 26, 2026

Secondary Application Deadline: Closes Jun 14, 2026

Program Goal: To allow students to gain experience facilitating service projects with various local nonprofits and inspire them to find their passions for future careers. Students will be able to discover their niche and master skills to help build partnerships and host initiatives. Unlike many other clubs and organizations, Act & Advance provides amazing opportunities for members to engage in nonprofit work with direct communication with other nonprofit organizations. Students aren't just in it for hours; they're looking to make an impact and host Passion Projects for the nonprofits they engage with.

Program Leads:

Position	Name	Email
Act & Advance Program Manager	Caroline Wang	actandadvance@youthambassadorsofservice.org
Peer Mentor	Aaryana Shah	actandadvance@youthambassadorsofservice.org
Peer Mentor	Aveer Patel	actandadvance@youthambassadorsofservice.org
A&A Technical Manager	Chris Daniels	actandadvance@youthambassadorsofservice.org

Program Description: Act & Advance is a nine-month program from September to May. During this program, students must participate in YAS events, host drives and fundraisers, and take the initiative in hosting their own events. Throughout these eight months, Act & Advance members and the student board will meet monthly to participate in workshops, meet with guest speakers, and learn vital skills essential to initiating service projects. Participants in this program will be able to learn the basics of the nonprofit sector. They will be able to find career interests as they host initiatives for various nonprofit organizations. They will communicate





with nonprofit leaders, collaborate with members, and initiate projects benefiting the community and local nonprofits.

Throughout this program, members must:

- Regularly attend monthly meetings. The dates for each meeting are provided in the Act and Advance 2026-2027 timeline. Meetings will always be from 2-4 pm on Sundays.
- Communicate effectively – in case of any cancellation or delays, please notify the Program Manager at least 48 hours in advance. Last-minute cancellations will not be acceptable unless there is an emergency.
- Be respectful, self-aware, and willing to collaborate.
- Take initiative!
- Last but not least, be sure to have lots of fun!

Program Requirements: From September to May, members of Act & Advance will be required to meet specific guidelines to graduate from the program. All of these requirements are the **bare minimum**; you are welcome to do more, but keep in mind that you get what you put into the program. Several projects will be shared with you, and you may get involved with those you see are right for you.

The requirements are as follows:

- In the first quarter, members must initiate and complete one guided project, forming groups with their peers to implement service initiatives scaffolded through YAS methodology
- Members must initiate an independent project in the second quarter to support and fundraise for YAS programs.
- In the last semester, members will host a creative, group project of their choice. This can be an event, fundraiser, or drive. This last event does not need to be large-scale but must be able to showcase what you have learned throughout the program and make some impact. They are welcome to also join a multitude of projects in place with our nonprofit partners as well and are not limited to solely one.
- Each project will be provided a seed funding of \$50, and we would like each project value to exceed \$250.
- We will post assignments regarding our lessons and workshops in the Google Classroom at least once a month for further growth and learning opportunities.





When doing these projects, we will provide you with a list of nonprofits to pick from as your beneficiary, and you will then be able to contact these organizations to understand better who they are and how you can best help them.

Important Application Dates:

- Jan 31, 2026: High School Full-Year Applications Open
- April 26, 2026: High School Full-Year Application Priority Deadline
- June 14, 2026: High School Full-Year Application Regular Deadline
- August TBD, 2026: Connection Day

Please refer to the timeline below to better understand what is expected of you throughout this year. Please be aware that if there is poor communication or continual unexcused absences from meetings, there will be consequences that could result in termination from the program.

	2024-25 Important Dates and Goals
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ August TBD: Connection Day
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Starting & planning your Guided Project (set goals) ➤ September TBD: Main Meeting #1 ➤ <u>Civic Circle of Engagement: Volunteerism</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Watch a video on the value of volunteering and write about its impact. ○ Volunteer at a local nonprofit for 2+ hours and reflect on the experience. ○ Submit photos and log hours on tracking forms.
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implementing your guided project ➤ October TBD: Main Meeting #2 ➤ <u>Civic Circle of Engagement: Service</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Watch a TED Talk on how small acts of service create ripple effects; write a reflection. ○ Use provided forms to track metrics for guided project. ➤ <u>Graphic Design Activity</u>: Design promotional materials for guided project.



<p>November</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Finalizing your guided project ➤ November TBD: Main Meeting #3 ➤ <i>November 22-26: Thanksgiving Break</i> ➤ <u>Civic Circle of Engagement: Listen & Learn</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Watch a video on identifying community issues; write about a local issue and a solution. ○ Interview a nonprofit leader about their challenges; submit a summary. ○ Upload interview notes and key insights to Google Classroom. ➤ <u>How to Make Asks</u>: Strategies for requesting support for projects.
<p>December</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Starting & planning on your Independent Project (set goals) ➤ December TBD: Main Meeting #4 ➤ <i>December 23- 31: Winter Break</i> ➤ <u>Civic Circle of Engagement: Donate</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Watch a video on the impact of giving; reflect on how donations strengthen communities. ○ Ensure all guided project metrics are submitted before winter break. ➤ <u>Promotional Strategy</u>: Use Canva to design an Instagram post with pictures of the process, donations, and impact report.
<p>January</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>January 1-5: Winter Break</i> ➤ <i>January 13-17: Finals Week</i> ➤ January TBD: Main Meeting #5 ➤ <u>Civic Circle of Engagement: Voice</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Watch a video on youth advocacy and write about how you can use your voice for change. ○ Draft a letter or email advocating for a cause; submit and share insights. ○ Submit letters and email confirmations.
<p>February</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Starting & planning your Group Final (set goals) ➤ February TBD: Main Meeting #6



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Civic Circle of Engagement: Voting</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Watch a video on civic participation and write about why youth engagement is essential. ○ Guest speaker to do pre-registration and learn about voting ➤ <u>Content Creation</u>: Create an infographic encouraging voter registration and share it.
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Focusing on your Group Final ➤ March TBD: Main Meeting #7 ➤ March 29-31: Spring Break ➤ Civic Circle of Engagement: Purchase Power <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Watch a video on ethical consumption; reflect on how choices impact communities. ○ Support an ethical business, take a picture of the purchase, and explain the choice. ○ Submit reflections in Google Classroom. ➤ <u>Advanced Fundraising</u>: Execute a larger campaign or joint project.
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Finishing your Group Final and donating the proceeds ➤ April TBD: Main Meeting #8 ➤ <u>Civic Circle of Engagement: Social Entrepreneurship</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Watch a video on youth social entrepreneurs; reflect on innovation in service. ○ Create a pitch for a social enterprise idea and present it at the last Main Meeting. ○ Submit presentation slides and pitch summary. ➤ <u>Prepare for Impact Showcase</u>: Presentation of projects to peers, families, and nonprofit partners.
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reflections and Act & Advance Impact Showcase ➤ May TBD: Main Meeting #9

