



# Y • A • B

YOUNG AMBASSADOR BOARD

## HANDBOOK & OVERVIEW



"If you desire to make a  
**DIFFERENCE** in the world,  
you must be **DIFFERENT**  
from the world."

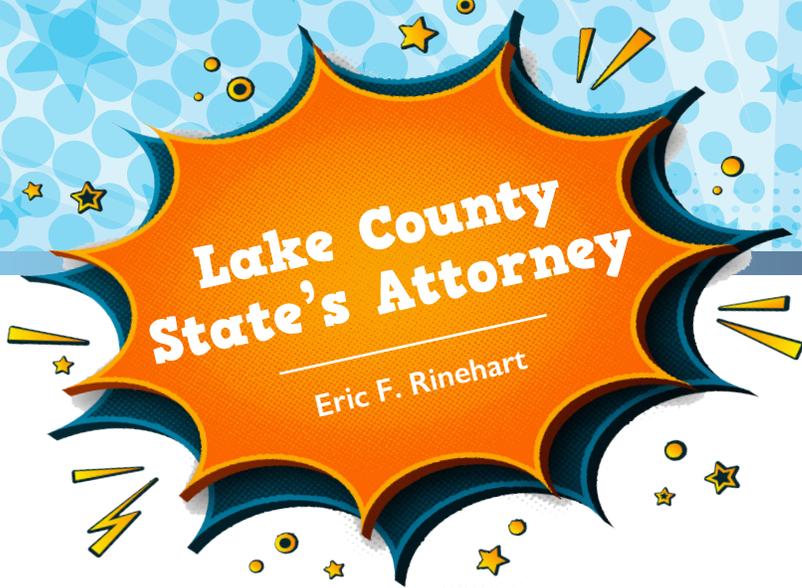
- Elaine S. Dalton

*Our mission is to empower the youth of Lake County to become leaders and advocates for their community and peers. The Young Ambassadors will lead by example and work together throughout Lake County to improve our community.*



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Thank you for your interest in becoming involved with the Lake County State's Attorney's Office's Youth Ambassador Board "YAB". We believe that the YAB will be an exciting opportunity for you to learn about our justice system and to improve your own communities. We envision this board as a critical connection between our office and the youth of Lake County.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stated that "Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve." We appreciate your interest in service, and frankly we need your help in making Lake County safer.

The members of the Lake County State's Attorney's Office service our communities by representing the people in court. Most of our cases involve prosecuting individuals who have broken the law and supporting the victims of those crimes. Some of our cases involve us using the civil law to sue those who harm our environment or who engage in consumer fraud. All of our cases are brought with the goal of protecting the community from those who would break the law. In addition to our work in the courtrooms, we also have the job of thinking about community-wide programs that can address the causes of crime.

We cannot work on our long-term goals without transparency and diversity. This is where we need you. YOU can advance the mission of our office and make your county safer by learning about our office and by informing our office of the ways we can improve upon our important goals.

Thank you again for your interest in this important opportunity.



Eric F. Rinehart  
Lake County State's Attorney  
18 N. County Street, 3rd Floor  
Waukegan, IL 60085  
(847)377-3000



The Young Ambassador Board (YAB) is one of the gems of the Lake County Children's Advocacy Center (LCCAC). Youth gathering to empower each other to turn their empathy into action fosters significant development and reinforces that one person can create change.

The YAB has been instrumental in modeling the benefits of sharing their knowledge, experiences, and ideas for growth. We have seen the difference their ideas have made and have grown tremendously as an organization because of their insight and devotion to our cause. As leaders, we serve as visionaries. The YAB helps us see the needs of your communities through your eyes. The LCCAC values your vision and looks forward to learning from you.

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, and do more and become more, you are a leader" - John Quincy Adams

Thank you for stepping forward to grow your leadership skills and for making a difference.



Carrie Flanigan  
Executive Director  
Lake County Children's Advocacy Center  
123 N. O'Plaine Road  
Gurnee, IL 60031  
(847)377-3155



Welcome!

Thank you for your interest or learning more about the Lake County State's Attorney's Office Young Ambassadors Board, LCSAO-YAB. We would like to introduce ourselves as we are the co-facilitators of the YAB program.

**Hello...**my name is McKenzie Endsley. I am a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor who works with the Lake County Children's Advocacy Center. I provide therapeutic services and mental health care to children and adolescents who have experienced trauma and have come to the CAC for support. I help lead a Parent Support Group for families, an Art Group for teens, and a Coping Skills Group for younger children. In addition, I am trained in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Trauma-Informed Yoga and Social Emotional Learning. I am very passionate about supporting children through challenges while also empowering our youth in becoming resilient to take on their future.

**Welcome...**my name is Carrie Wings. I am a victim witness advocate for the Lake County Children's Advocacy Center. The LCCAC is a place where children come to do a forensic interview when there has been a disclosure of physical or sexual abuse. I work with the families through this process and continue to assist them during the investigation as well as a criminal prosecution if applicable. I ensure that the family's questions and concerns are addressed and assist them with any referrals or needs they may have. In addition to working with the families I have been fortunate enough to be a part of our youth prevention programs for years and have worked closely with our community and school.

Together with our experiences and the voices of our youth we are very excited to co-facilitate the YAB! We are happy to be a sounding board for the members, provide leadership, advocacy for the youth and their peers, and an environment that brings unity, creativity, acceptance, and growth! We challenge the YAB to make a difference and we hope you consider this journey for yourself and join today.

We hope to get the chance to meet you!

All our best,

McKenzie and Carrie



### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Our mission is to empower the youth of Lake County to become leaders and advocates for their community and peers. The Young Ambassadors will lead by example and work together throughout Lake County to improve our community.

### **YOUNG AMBASSADORS**

The State's Attorney's Office is looking to motivate and inspire our young leaders. The Young Ambassadors will serve as a forum to effectively deal with issues that especially impact youth in Lake County. Young Ambassadors will be our partners in developing programs and will provide insight on existing efforts to engage the young people of Lake County.

### **MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

Young Ambassadors will be involved in various projects and activities to bring awareness to their schools and communities. They will also be a voice on issues and trends that affect them and their peers directly. By being a member, the youth will grow in the following areas:

- Leadership
- Gratitude and Good Citizenship
- A Voice to Community Awareness/Prevention Programs
- Service to their Peers and their Community
- Personal Growth and Confidence

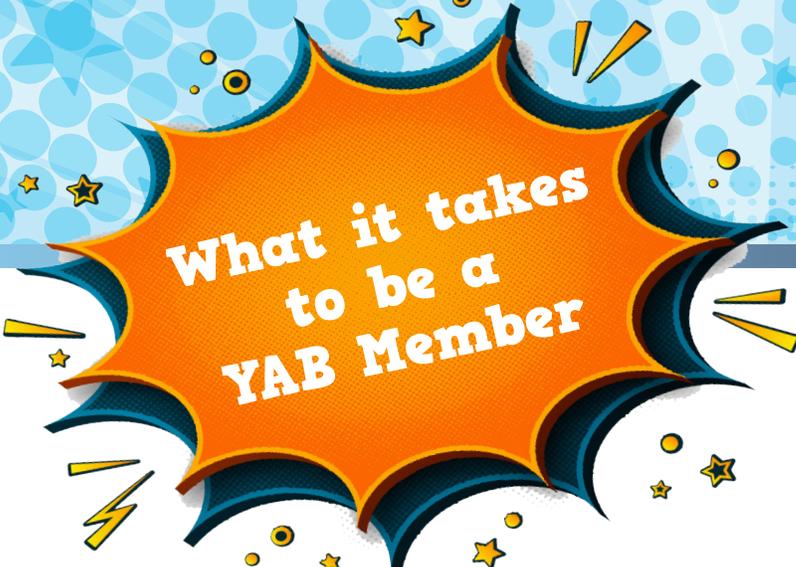
We sincerely hope you will take this opportunity to make a difference and become a leader in your community. We look forward to you becoming a Young Ambassador Partner and offering your input to the employees of our Lake County State's Attorney's Office. Please feel free to contact the program's Facilitators:

McKenzie Endsley  
(847)377-8128  
mendsley@lakecountyil.gov

Carrie Wings  
(847)377-7824  
cwings@lakecountyil.gov

**“Each of us can make a difference. Together we make change.”**

- Barbara Mikuiski



# What it takes to be a YAB Member

## **REQUIREMENTS TO BE A YAB MEMBER**

- Resident of Lake County (or) attend a school within Lake County
- Students must be in High School, 9th through 12th grade
- Students must read and complete all fields needed within the YAB application
- Students and parent/guardian must review all requirements, waivers, and agree to the commitment of being a member YAB
- Students must commit to meetings throughout the school year. Attending YAB meetings are vital. If by February you have missed 3 or more meetings your membership will be under review.
- Students will be required to be a part of, and participate, in the Advisory Community Outreach Project until its completion
- Students will be required to attend at least 2, of the 4, organized community volunteer events
- Students will be required to volunteer at the Children's Advocacy Center for a minimum of 5 hours. These hours can be all at once or throughout the year.

## **OFFERED TO MEMBERS**

- Leadership Skills
- Team Building activities
- Networking
- Community resources and presentations
- A meeting or event space for youths' additional committees or clubs
- Volunteer Service Hours are available on a continuous request. For students who need them they will need to communicate this with facilitator and hours will be coordinated
- Involvement in community prevention programs offered by the State's Attorney's Office and the Lake County Children's Advocacy Center

**“Nothing is Impossible.  
The word itself says I’m Possible!”**

*-Audrey Hepburn*



Our mission is to empower the youth of Lake County to become leaders and advocates for their community and peers. The Young Ambassadors will lead by example and work together throughout Lake County to improve our community.

We plan to accomplish this mission with three objectives: Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Outreach. To bring our mission to life each month the Advisory Board, along with co-facilitators, will host meetings, provide presentations, create dialogue, and discuss group projects.

### **ADVISORY MEMBERS**

- Consists of past members who are currently Juniors or Seniors within their schools
- Plan Board meetings agenda and run Board meetings
- Connect all YAB members while create a welcoming and safe environment
- Assist facilitators in discussing leadership skills
- Assist in planning team building events
- Must plan 4 Organized Community Volunteer events
- Assist in bringing presentations to Board meetings
- Update YAB Handbook and Application each year, in conjunction with co-facilitator's
- Plan the ongoing community outreach project
- In charge of application process for following years Advisory members
- MUST attend all advisory meetings, as well as attend as many Board meetings as possible

### **BOARD MEMBERS:**

- All YAB members come together for Board meetings
- Leadership skills will be discussed
- Team building events
- Networking
- Community Projects, fundraisers, volunteer hours, presentations, and much more will be discussed and planned for meetings
- All members must attend as many meetings as possible as to not fall behind

YAB meetings are our scheduled time to bring members together. Each meeting will build onto one another therefore, it is very important members recognize this commitment along with their availability. We certainly understand additional involvement of each youth however, becoming a YAB member also has commitments. The youth must understand all that is expected of them when completing an application and agree to their involvement as a member. If the youths involvement falls short of what is required their ability to continue to be a member will be under review by the co-facilitator's of the program.



### **LONG-TERM OUTREACH - REQUIRED**

In addition to YAB meetings taking place the Advisory members will provide a long-term community project that all YAB members will have to participate in. This project will be the focus throughout the year, require additional meetings of the members, and will be completed by the end of the school year or early summer.

The intention of these project is to provide members a connection with their community, gain leadership, teamwork, and organization.

### **SHORT-TERM OUTREACH - OPTIONAL**

Outside of the long-term project throughout the year additional opportunities will be provided to members on a smaller scale. Participation in these events are not required however, are highly encouraged. These events could be a one-day opportunity or a few weeks of planning and/or fundraising to reach a goal. These opportunities could be brought to the members by the facilitators and/or by any member who wish to share with YAB, bringing peer involvement to the community.

**“Life’s most urgent question: What are you doing for others?”**

*- Martin Luther King Jr.*



Throughout a YAB's membership the youth will have volunteer requirements, as well as, offered a number of volunteer opportunities. This can help with any community hours needed for school, as well as those members who are looking to put in additional time towards their community and personal growth.

### **ORGANIZED COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER EVENTS**

Throughout the year the Advisory Board will plan 4 events within the community. You will be required to attend at least 2 of the 4 events. Event will be scheduled with all members schedules in mind and enough notice for member to plan accordingly.

### **VOLUNTEER HOURS REQUIRED**

Each YAB member will be required to volunteer at least 5 hours of their time to the Lake County Children's Advocacy Center. These hours can be completed in one session or throughout the year. It will be the requirement of the YAB member to work in conjunctions with the co-facilitators to accomplish these hours.

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

- Lake County Children's Advocacy Center
- Lake County State's Attorney's Office, community events
- Blue Kids - Child Abuse Awareness Campaign
- Annual LCCAC Fundraising Event
- Holiday Shoppe - Teen Corner
- Social Media Platforms: sharing and raising awareness
- YAB member can suggest any volunteer opportunities or events within the community to all members
- And much more

If a YAB member wishes to create or organize a volunteer opportunity for the rest of the YAB members. It will be the members responsibility to communicate, organize, network, and advertise all that is needed for this event. *Co-Facilitators will assist where needed but it is not their job to do the work of the event.*

If a youth is seeking volunteer opportunities, they will need to communicate and work with the facilitators of YAB.

**“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time;  
they have the heart”**

- Elizabeth Andrew