

YSPP Youth Suicide Prevention Program

Youth Advisory Council Job Description

The Youth Suicide Prevention Program of Washington State (YSPP) is looking to recruit a group of young people – between the ages of 14 and 22 – to provide guidance on messaging and outreach strategies to young people.

YSPP is a not-for-profit organization, based in Seattle, but serving the entire state, with a mission of reducing youth suicidal behaviors. Our state experiences an average of two completed youth suicides each week and another 16 hospitalizations as a result of suicidal behavior. The organization does not provide counseling or direct services for suicidal youth, but offers training and education to students, teachers, parents, counselors, pastors, health care practitioners, coaches, and community advocates who are working on the “front lines” with youth.

We have a lot of questions and need YOU and your opinion. For example, we maintain a website – www.yspp.org but we do not have a Face Book or Twitter account. Should we? How do we enhance our website? How do we modify our literature to make it more interesting to youth and/or their parents? What should parents know about depression and suicide risk? What should middle and high school students know about depression and suicide? Should college-aged students receive different information? How do we reach out and communicate with a young person who is not attending school? How do we make this stigmatized issue less difficult to talk about?

Expectations:

- Willing to attend one 90-minute meeting each month (Sunday, late afternoon);
- Able to provide (or arrange) transportation to meetings that will be held in YSPP offices, near Greenlake;
- Willing to communicate in advance if unable to attend meeting;
- Make 5 month commitment to council; [can continue if able and interested];
- If under age 18, have parent permission/support to attendance at meetings; and
- Willing to provide honest, constructive feedback on social marketing strategies and ways to enhance communication/access with Washington State youth.

YSPP will provide:

- Community service hours or letters of recommendation for participation;
- Refreshments; and a
- Safe environment to share and participate.

If interested, please contact Kelly McDonald at kelly@yspp.org or 425-286-5132.

Online Volunteer Application (choose Youth Council box): <https://yspp.wufoo.com/forms/yspp-volunteer-application/>