

YAC CONNECTIONS

What's New from the Region One
GEAR UP Youth Advisory Committee

OCTOBER '08



LETTER FROM NCCEP & REGION ONE

October has been a busy month for Youth Advisory Committee members. There have been midterms, the PSAT, and implementing the new YAC structure in each school. With everything going on, we are glad that you are relaxing for a few moments with the new issue of YAC Connections.

This issue features more information about the structural changes to the YAC that were introduced during our last meeting. During this meeting we also talked about recruiting new members, so read *The YAC Wants YOU!* for recruitment ideas.

With teams growing as fast as they are, it is important to learn how to make the most of each Youth Advisory Team meeting. With that in mind, we've included some meeting planning tips on page 3.

As always, we want to hear from YOU! Email any articles, comments, or pictures to youthservices@edpartnerships.org. ●

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Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes

The Youth Advisory Committee had its first meeting of the 2008-09 school year in Edinburg, TX at Hispanic Engineering, Science & Technology (HESTEC) week. During our one-day meeting YAC members learned about the new YAC structure, began a semester plan for their team, and started thinking about their year-long project.

The new YAC structure was created to **accommodate** more student participation in each school. Each Youth Advisory Team (YAT) will have three committees: a GEAR UP Voice Committee, a GEAR UP Awareness Committee, and a GEAR UP Events Committee. Each committee is headed by a committee chair, and the entire team is lead by a Team Leader. By creating these committees, there is room for everyone in the YAC — any student can get involved!

In addition to this big change, YAC members learned about their year-long campus research project. YAC members will interview at least one **stakeholder** to find out what information they would like to know about the student body to help them better serve students and families. Each team will then create a survey to gather this information, the results of which will be shared in a written report and presentation next semester.

While a lot of time was spent doing semester planning and brainstorming, time was set aside to view the NASA exhibit, which was a unique experience that many students enjoyed. At the closing, each YAC member made a commitment to the team for the upcoming year. See below to read some of the commitments that were made. ●

YAC Commitments

What YAC members are saying...

- I want to reach out the students and community of La Villa.
- This year I'm going to get more students interested and involved in GEAR UP. I want to show them how unique and helpful this program is for their future.
- I will make a commitment to graduate three of my friends that are struggling.
- This year I want to run for the events committee and commit to being a great leader.



The YAC Wants You!

It is important for every type of group or organization to think about how they are going expand their membership.

Here are a few methods to recruit new members:

Tabling — Tabling is the general term for being in an open space and providing information about your organization. It is known as tabling because people who use this technique usually stand or sit by a table that has information, pictures, and other materials on display. Tabling is an active process where participants engage people who walk by — asking questions, giving out materials, and having them sign up for a meeting or event. For tabling to be a success, think about a time and location where lots of students will be passing by (for example, by the ticket booth at a football game). That way you can reach out to the most students.

Classroom Presentations — Sharing information about the YAC in classes will help other students know what it's all about. Presentations should be short, exciting, and interesting. During your presentation, provide information on what the YAC is, share some of the activities you do, talk about upcoming events, and pass out any materials you have (such as copies of YAC Connections). Pass around a sign up sheet for students who are interested in learning more.



Open Meetings — Having meetings open to everyone will allow any student who is interested to learn what the Youth Advisory Committee is all about. You can publicize these meetings through word of mouth, during morning announcements, in your school newspaper, and by posting flyers around your school.

Individual Recruiting — One of the most successful ways to increase your membership is by inviting people to join after you already know them. This is done in a five step process:

1. **Meet them.** Say hi to the guy who sits next to you in Geometry class. Class is one of the easiest ways to meet new people.
2. **Make them your friend.** Ask if he wants to study for your next test together after school. Find out if you have things in common.
3. **Introduce them to your friends.** See if he wants to go to the movies with you and your friends over the weekend. Invite him to eat lunch with you and your friends and fellow YAT members.
4. **Introduce them to the YAT and YAC.** Invite him to participate in an activity or meeting your YAT is holding. Tell him about the leadership conferences you have been to and what you have planned for the upcoming year. Share everything being involved offers, such as leadership training, close relationships with adults, and being a part of something rewarding.
5. **Ask them to join.** If he likes what the YAT is about (and who wouldn't?!) ask him to become a member.

Depending on the size of your school, some of the options may be better than others. Think about what would work best for your team and create an action plan. Your Youth Advisory Team will grow before you know it! ●

VOCABULARY

- **Accomodate:** To bring into agreement.
- **Allotment:** A portion that has been shared or distributed.
- **Objective:** A goal or end of action. (Warning! this word has multiple meanings.)
- **Stakeholder:** A person or group that has an investment or interest in something, usually a business.

Call for Entries

Is your YAC team doing something really cool in your school? Do you have a great idea and want to share it?

Write a 200–300 word article on something exciting related to YAC or GEAR UP and it will be featured in an upcoming issue of the YAC. For questions and submissions talk to your GEAR UP facilitator or e-mail us at youthservices@edpartnerships.org.

Cool Quote

“It's hard to beat a person who doesn't give up.”

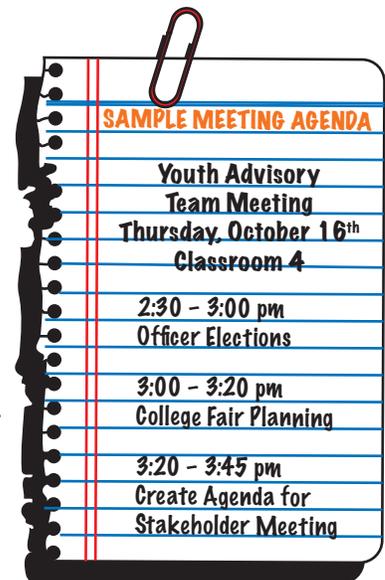
— Babe Ruth, American Major League baseball player, 1914–1935

Babe Ruth is known as one of the greatest baseball players of all time. He was one of the first players elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame and was named the best player in all of baseball by The Sporting News in 1998. Ruth's involvement in the sport brought the game to the public eye and a helped it become a national pastime.

PLANNING a MEETING

Learning to plan an effective meeting is a skill that will help you as you take leadership positions in organizations at school and eventually in the workplace. Below are six steps that, if followed, will lead to a very successful meeting!

- 1. Set your objective.** It is very important that you know why you are meeting. Is it to brainstorm ideas for an event? Share new information? Solve a problem? Knowing the purpose of your meeting will help you and the attendees prepare what they will contribute.
- 2. Determine a meeting time.** Select a time and place for your meeting that is convenient for all who will attend. Share these details with the attendees.
- 3. Create an agenda.** An agenda is a written document which lists the discussion items for the meeting, the presenter of each topic, and a time **allotment** for each item. Preparing and distributing the agenda prior to the meeting will allow participants to prepare in advance. The best agendas will keep the meeting focused and timely. Check out this sample agenda (right).
- 4. Start on time.** Starting on time will set a productive tone and sends a message to late arrivals that being late is unacceptable.
- 5. Record meeting notes.** At least one person should be responsible for taking notes at the meeting to document the discussion. After the meeting, notes should be typed and each member should be given a copy.
- 6. Follow-up on any action items.** It is likely that at the conclusion of the meeting one or multiple decisions will have been made. Make sure to follow through on these items with any necessary actions. ●



For additional information about YAC Connections, please contact:

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