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## Statewide Advocacy Council Application



### **Thanks for your interest in joining the Statewide Advocacy Council.**

The GSA Network Statewide Advocacy Council is a diverse group of youth leaders from schools across California. As a member of the Statewide Advocacy Council (SAC) you will learn skills to become a stronger activist and work towards creating a safer climate across California for LGBTQ students and straight allies.

#### **Requirements:**

1. A student in a public or private middle, junior high or high school in California.
2. While it is not mandatory that you be a member of a GSA all SAC members are encouraged to be a part of an established or underground (not an official club on

campus) GSA. Members can also be a member of a diversity/tolerance club working on LGBTQ issues.

3. Committed to creating statewide and local change for LGBTQ youth and fighting homophobia and transphobia in schools, specifically with a focus on legislative and administrative advocacy, policy change and curriculum development.
4. Attending and participation in GAYLA/QYAD, Activist Camp, or prior advocacy training strongly encouraged.

**Each Statewide Advocacy Council member is expected to:**

1. Make a one-year commitment to serve on the Statewide Advocacy Council and represent your region as fully as possible.
2. Prepare for and attend monthly meetings of the Statewide Advocacy Council. Members must attend at least 75% of the scheduled monthly meetings.
3. Participate in at least one statewide committee on a monthly basis.
4. Identify needs of GSAs, LGBTQ youth and straight allies in schools and guide the direction of the GSA Network Advocacy Programs campaigns and curriculum accordingly.
5. Respond to phone and email inquiries in a timely manner, from other council members, the committees or workgroups you are on, and the Advocacy Program Manager.
6. Help coordinate, plan or facilitate parts of either GAYLA, QYAD, and/or work to develop a curriculum campaign at your school.
7. Be a resource to GSAs in your region in regards to Advocacy related training and events.
8. Statewide Advocacy Council members are encouraged to be working on an action, campaign, or event linked to the statewide advocacy work.

**By applying you are acknowledging that you have READ THE EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS, AND AGREE TO FULLFILL THEM to the best of your abilities if selected to be a member of the Statewide Advocacy Council.**

**First Name**

\*

**Last Name**

\*

**Address**

\*

**City**

\*

**State**

\*

- select -

Alabama

Alaska

American Samoa

Arizona

Arkansas

Armed Forces Americas

Armed Forces Europe

Armed Forces Pacific

California

Colorado

Connecticut

Delaware

District of Columbia

Florida

Georgia

Guam

Hawaii

Idaho

Illinois

Indiana

Iowa

Kansas

Kentucky

Louisiana

Maine

Maryland

Massachusetts

Michigan

Minnesota

Mississippi

Missouri

Montana

Nebraska

Nevada

New Hampshire

New Jersey

New Mexico

New York

North Carolina

North Dakota

Northern Mariana Islands

Ohio

Oklahoma

**Zip Code**

\*

**Email**

\*

**Home Phone**

\*

If you don't have a home phone write none.

**Cell Phone**

\*

If you don't have a cell, write none

**Check here if we should be discreet when contacting you:**

**Yes**

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**School Info:**

**School Name**

\*

e.g. Oakland Technical High School

**High School Graduation Year**

\*

[\(clear \[1\]\)](#)

**GSA Officer**

\*

**Yes**

**No**

**If yes, title or position:**

ex: President, Vice President

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**GSA Network strives for diversity in all aspects of our organization. Please provide the following information about yourself:**

**Gender**

\*

**Male**

**Female**

**Transgender**

**Other**

**Gender identity, if other:**

**Preferred gender pronoun**

\*

**Sexual Orientation**

\*

- select -

Lesbian

Gay

Bisexual

Queer

Questioning

Straight

Pansexual

Other

**Sexual Orientation, if other:**

If you selected other above, please specify here

**Race/Ethnicity**

\*

African American or Black

Asian or API (Asian Pacific Islander)

Latino or Latina

Multiracial

Native American

White

Other, please specify

Hold down Control (or Command on a Mac) to select multiple.

Race/Ethnicity, if other:

Date of Birth

\*

([clear](#) [2])

**1. Why are you interested in serving on the Statewide Advocacy Council? Please describe why you are interested in legislative advocacy and statewide and regional administrative policy change.**

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**2. Please describe your involvement and experiences in working in the area of legislative advocacy, administrative advocacy or other forms of policy-driven activism within your community, at your school, with GSA Network or other organizations.**

\*

**3. In your opinion, what are the greatest challenges facing GSAs and LGBTQ/straight youth in fighting homophobia and transphobia in schools on a statewide level?**

\*

**4. What is your understanding of oppression? Share some ways that racism, classism, sexism, and other oppressions have affected you and your activism.**

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**5. What are the 3 most important legislative or administrative advocacy issues facing students today? Based on your response, and the Statewide Advocacy Council Job Description, what excites you the most (about being on SAC)?**

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**Please respond to the prompts below and write a short essay addressing and answering the questions that follow the scenario. If you would feel more comfortable writing this in another language or would like to arrange for an interview over the phone instead, please contact the Advocacy Program Manager.**

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6. Gerardo, a sophomore at Mission High School in San Francisco, has been verbally harassed continuously ever since he came out of the closet and decided to be openly affectionate with his boyfriend, Julio. Gerardo would ignore the students that would tease him, insisting that he didn't

want to "stoop to their level." One day after school as Gerardo was walking toward his locker, a group of boys called him a "fag" and one of them pushed him into a locker, bruising him in the process. A GSA Network youth council member encouraged him to talk to the administration and file a complaint, which he did. When he tried to talk to the principal, the principal said that Gerardo was exaggerating what happened and "making a big deal out of nothing." Now, Gerardo always has to have someone walking with him down the hall because he's too afraid to do it by himself. If you were Gerardo's friend, how would you help him solve the problem? In particular, what steps would you have him take to follow up on the complaint that he filed?

7. Katrina, a senior at Hollywood High School, has become increasingly comfortable in hir\* identity as transgender as a result of hir own research and after attending a few GSA meetings. Katrina, however, does not feel comfortable using either the male or female bathrooms on campus, but there aren't any other alternatives at Hollywood HS. When ze attempted to communicate hir problem to the administration, they were confused as to what "transgender" meant and insisted that ze continue using the female bathroom, as ze was obviously female-bodied. If you were an Advocacy Council member who happened to be one of hir classmates, how would you help hir?

\* "Ze" and "hir" are gender-neutral pronouns used instead of the typical "him/her" and "he/she."

**8: Please share 3 examples of times that you have taken leadership at school or in your community:**

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**Source URL:** <http://gsanetwork.org/joinsac#comment-0>

#### **Links**

[1] [http://gsanetwork.org/javascript%3AclearDateTime%28%20%27custom\\_92%27%20%29%3B](http://gsanetwork.org/javascript%3AclearDateTime%28%20%27custom_92%27%20%29%3B)

[2] [http://gsanetwork.org/javascript%3AclearDateTime%28%20%27custom\\_84%27%20%29%3B](http://gsanetwork.org/javascript%3AclearDateTime%28%20%27custom_84%27%20%29%3B)