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## Youth Council and the Statewide Advocacy Council



## Youth Leadership

**GSA Network is led by youth because we believe that youth have the power to create solutions and lead the fight against homophobia and transphobia. Representatives from GSAs around California serve on the organization's [Board of Directors](#) <sup>[1]</sup>, regional [Youth Councils](#), and [Statewide Advocacy Council](#).**

## Statewide Advocacy Council

Statewide Advocacy Council is a diverse group of youth leaders from across California that works with GSA Network to change state laws and policies that impact LGBTQ youth. Statewide Advocacy Council members help plan and shape GSA Network's advocacy efforts and events, including [GAYLA](#) <sup>[2]</sup> (GSA Advocacy & Youth Leadership Academy) and [Queer Youth Advocacy Day](#)

[3]. They also help develop and promote advocacy campaigns such as our [Campaign for LGBT-Inclusive Curriculum](#) [4] and the implementation of [the FAIR Education Act](#) [5].

## **Statewide Advocacy Council Members, 2013-2014**

**Sasha Sobol, Los Altos High School**

**Kimberly Yu, Alexander Hamilton High School**

**Kirsten Hendrickson, Folsom High School**

**Abram Bolanos, Hoover High School**

**Ruhi Bhalla, Santa Monica High School**

**Matthew Yeung, California High School**

**Andrew Taban, Canyon High School**

**Jose Armando Lopez, Pete Knight High School**

**Ashton Lee, Manteca High School**

**Thomanyque Williams, Humanities and Arts Academy of Los Angeles**

**Amber P., Central Valley**

Check out [this blog post](#) [6] to learn more about Statewide Advocacy Council. Visit [Statewide Advocacy Council](#) [7] to learn how you can apply.

## **Youth Council**

Youth Council members come from small towns and cities across California to represent the voices of youth activists and GSAs throughout the state. Youth Council members meet monthly to plan GSA Network's programs, plan and present at conferences, and lead trainings and events throughout the year.

### **Northern California Youth Council Members, 2015-16**

**Ellie Davis, Oakland Technical High School**

**Malia Disney, Tilden Preparatory School**

**Eli Johnson, Berkeley High School**

**Katusch Strich, Berkeley High School**

**Tanayshia Price, Robertson High School**

**Mya Worrell, Folsom High School**

**Jared Winn-Taryor, Berkeley High School**

Cal Larisch, Washington High School

**Anya Upson**  
**Crystal Zepeda**

**Southern California Queerdom Youth Council, 2015-2016**

**Mikayla Muse**, California High School

**Monique Garcia**, Santee Educational Complex

**Stephany Salas**, La Serna High School

**Corey Lamas**, Stern MASS

**Guy Rosales**, Renaissance High School of the Arts

**Natalie Lee**, Gabrielino High School

**Diana Alvarez**, Stern MASS High School

**Johnny Ramos**, Santee Educational Complex

**Kween**, Santee Educational Complex

**Rosa Leon**, Cabrillo High School

**Claudia Iraheta**, West Adams High School

**Jonathan Azterbaum**, St. Francis High School

**Carla Montiel-Rangel**, West Valley High School

**Caressa Wong**, Arcadia High School

**Sonya Kalara**, La Canada High School

**George Rosales**, Gabrielino High School

**Southern California Queering Brotherhood Fellows, 2015-2016**

**Jerry Alvarez**, Marc and Eva Stern Math and Science School ?

**Carlos Beltran**, Alexander Hamilton High School

**Audi Madrigal**, Benjamin Franklin High School

**David Mosseri**, Alexander Hamilton High School

**Travis Phillips**,

Santee Education Complex

**Ezequiel Ramos**, Benjamin Franklin High School

**Johnny Ramos**, Santee Education Complex

**David Vargas**, Alexander Hamilton High School

**Central Valley Expression, Not Suppression Committee 2016**

**Deion Jackson**, Central Valley High School

**Max Chavez**, Central Valley High School

**Rei Bioco**, Buchanan High School

**Hannah Vizcarra**, Buchanan High School

**Kaelyn Dauer**, Buchanan High School

**Kaede Acuna**, Hoover High School

**Kiana Medina**, University High School

The Central Valley does not have a regional Youth Council but instead has a planning committee for the region's annual queer and allied youth conference called Expression, Not Suppression (ENS) that takes place in Fresno. The Central Valley program is seeking dedicated youth to help plan the conference, present at workshops, and do outreach to the region about the conference and GSA Network's programs. If you are interested in joining the ENS Committee and making it better for queer and allied youth in the Central Valley, apply below at the "Join a Youth Council" link.

**Find out what it's like to be on Youth Council and learn how you can apply. Visit [Join a Youth Council](#)<sup>[8]</sup>.**

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**Source URL:** <https://gsanetwork.org/about-us/youth-council>

#### **Links**

[1] <https://gsanetwork.org/about-us/board>

[2] <https://gsanetwork.org/events/gayla>

[3] <https://gsanetwork.org/events/qyad>

[4] <https://gsanetwork.org/get-involved/change-your-school/campaigns/lgbtq-inclusive-curriculum>

[5] <https://gsanetwork.org/FAIR>

[6] <https://gsanetwork.org/news/blog/welcome-2012-13-statewide-advocacy-council/10/04/12>

[7] <https://gsanetwork.org/get-involved/change-california/statewide-advocacy-council>

[8] <https://gsanetwork.org/get-involved/join-youth-council>