

Youth Freedom Fund

We believe trans and queer youth of color have the power to devise their own freedom. GSA Network's first-ever Youth Freedom Fund seeks to support youth-led projects and campaigns focused on organizing and advocating for safe and healthy school environments. We will provide awards of \$500 to approximately 40 GSA clubs that are registered with our network.

We encourage students who are part of GSA clubs across the country to submit creative projects and campaigns that fuel a movement for social change. We think it's important for a GSA Club to possess three focus areas: Gather, Support, and Take Action. Therefore, additional consideration will be given to projects and campaigns that align with one or more of the three focus areas.

Gather

This area is focused on bringing trans and queer students together! Projects or campaigns in this area would demonstrate how your club is working to build community on your campus and beyond. This could include a creative campaign to recruit new members, ideas for field trips to learn more about LGBTQ+ history, or potential events such as tablings or movie screenings.

Support

This area is focused on raising awareness as well as promoting healing and self-care. Projects or campaigns in this area would demonstrate how your club provides community support or works to promote an inclusive campus. This could include developing educational resources, holding events for awareness days (ex: Transgender Day of Visibility, National Coming Out Day), or bringing guest speakers to your campus or club.

Take Action

This area is focused on activism, advocacy, and your club's vision for the future! Projects or campaigns in this area would demonstrate how your club is working to build leadership and create change on your campus. This could include organizing a campaign to challenge binary dress codes, creating workshops to train students and staff on LGBTQ+ issues, or pushing for an inclusive curriculum on your campus.

Requirements

The GSA club applying for funding **must** be based in a high school or local, community organization within the United States. *We are unable to award any GSA club that is outside of the United States.*

The application form should be completed by the GSA club President *or* Vice President *or* Adult Advisor who is part of an active GSA club that has registered with GSA Network for at least the current and last academic school years (2022-2023 and 2023-2024). While the project should include the participation of all or most members of the club, the contact information for the GSA club should match the contact information submitted with your registration.

If the application form is submitted by the GSA club President or Vice President, support from an Adult Advisor or a school administrator responsible for the club will be required.

Projects should be youth-led, however, a school representative must review and approve the application before it is submitted.

Eligibility Checklist

- ☐ I'm part of a GSA club that is based in a high school or local community organization based in the United States
- ☐ My club registered with GSA Network for the current school year (2023-2024)
- ☐ My club registered with GSA Network last school year (2022-2023)
- ☐ I have discussed this project with members of my GSA club and received support to submit an application
- ☐ I have the support of my GSA Advisor to submit this application OR I am the GSA club Advisor
- ☐ My GSA club has an Advisor or school administrator who is able to participate in a Zoom interview along with at least two student representatives, IF our application should move forward to the next stage of consideration OR I am the GSA club Advisor and I agree to participate in a Zoom interview with student representatives
- ☐ My GSA Advisor or school administrator is able to represent the GSA club as needed to process paperwork and payments

Checked all the boxes above? Then you're ready to apply to the Youth Freedom Fund. Here's how:

Step 1

[Register your GSA club!](#) Applicants (students or advisors) must be part of an active GSA club that has registered with GSA Network for at least two academic school years (2022-2023 and 2023-2024). If you did not register your club last year, you will not be eligible for an award this year, but may be considered for other opportunities and awards in future years, should they become available.

Step 2

Submit an application via our online form starting on Monday, August 14 through Friday, September 29. Applications may be submitted by students or advisors, however, the applicant must be listed as a contact for the registered GSA club in order to be considered for the award.

Applicants may submit only one project or campaign per GSA club. We encourage students and advisors to submit applications as early as possible. If more than one application is submitted, GSA Network will honor the first submission. No late applications will be considered.

Applicants will receive an email confirmation of their submission. Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis as they are submitted. Applicants will be notified within 2 weeks of your submission whether the application has advanced to the next stage for consideration or has been declined. Given the volume of submissions, we are unable to provide specific feedback about your application.

Step 3

Applicants that advance to the next stage of consideration will be asked to join a 15-minute Zoom interview with GSA Network staff. At least one student and one adult advisor or school administrator must be present at the interview in order to qualify for the next stage of consideration.

Step 4

Award recipients will be notified within two weeks of their interview. If awarded, our Director of Finance & Administration will reach out to the GSA Club representative with payment instructions, including a request for a completed w-9, mailing address, and/or banking information.