



YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (YAC)

MISSION

The Youth Advisory Council exists to develop young leaders who are dedicated to improving the lives of people living with cancer in Gaston County. Through service, advocacy, and project-based learning, YAC members work alongside Cancer Services of Gaston County to address real community needs, build meaningful connections, and contribute to a healthier, more informed community.

WHY JOIN YAC?

Members gain:

Leadership experience

Community service hours

Real project-planning skills

Opportunities to work with community leaders

Experience supporting families living with cancer

A strong addition to college, scholarship, and job applications

WHAT YAC MEMBERS DO

Attend monthly meetings

Participate in service projects that directly support local families

Build leadership skills through teamwork, communication, and strategic planning

Learn about nonprofit work, advocacy, and community health

MONTHLY MEETINGS

One mandatory meeting each month from September through April.

- Members will be fed dinner at every meeting.
- Members will be expected to be present or communicate their absence as early as possible.

A second meeting date is scheduled each month:

- Mandatory for officers
- Optional for general members unless the full council is needed. We'll let everyone know at the end of the first meeting if the whole council needs to come to the second one.

NEW MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

All applicants will complete an interview before being selected for YAC.

All new members will be required to attend the YAC kickoff.

- Guardians are expected to attend or schedule a brief meeting with YAC leadership to discuss expectations.
- Kickoff covers expectations, communication standards, service requirements, and how YAC supports people living with cancer. It is also an opportunity for new members to meet the returning students in YAC, tour the office and meet the staff at Cancer Services.

REQUIRED SERVICE PARTICIPATION-

SERVICE IS CENTRAL TO YAC'S MISSION.

- All members must participate in both the Fall and Spring Soup & Gatorade Drive. These drives directly support our clients living with cancer in Gaston County.
- Members will also be expected to complete 3 Hours of volunteer work with Cancer Services of Gaston County

ATTENDANCE:

To remain in good standing, members are expected to attend at least 75% of meetings, participate in the Soup and Gatorade Drive, and contribute to group projects and conversations. These expectations ensure fairness for everyone. We are happy to work with students who have sports or work obligations, and we ask that all communication regarding conflicts be shared through Teams so we can plan and support students effectively. Eligibility for return will be evaluated at the end of the school year based on whether these expectations have been met.



COMMUNICATION-

All communication will take place through Microsoft Teams. Members will use Teams to:

Receive announcements

Communicate with the Program Coordinator

Message other members

RSVP for events

Join virtual meetings if needed

Professional communication is expected, this means communicating clearly, respectfully, and on time using appropriate language and behavior in all YAC-related messages and interactions.

YOUTH-LED PROJECT FOR 2026-2027

This year, YAC will design a youth-led project that supports people living with cancer in Gaston County. Students will learn how to evaluate needs, engage with stakeholders, allocate resources and more. This initiative gives students real experience in planning and carrying out a meaningful community project.

Fall: Members will brainstorm, plan, and write the project proposal. Students will also engage with stakeholders for project funding.

Spring: Members will implement the project before the school year ends.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

All members will be required to record 3 volunteer hours by the end of the semester. We are always looking for volunteers to assist with various office tasks, our seeds of strength garden and tobacco education in the community. members will be informed of opportunities regularly via Teams.





CANCER SERVICES OF GASTON COUNTY 2026-2027 YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL APPLICATION

The Youth Advisory Council exists to develop young leaders who are dedicated to improving the lives of people living with cancer in Gaston County. Through service, advocacy, and project-based learning, YAC members work alongside Cancer Services of Gaston County to address real community needs, build meaningful connections, and contribute to a healthier, more informed community.

- **Please fill out the application legibly in blue or black ink.**
- **To remain in good standing, members are expected to attend at least 75% of meetings each semester. Meetings will be on the first and third Monday of each month at 5:30pm.**
- **You must provide two letters of recommendation with your application. If you are active in a club or sport, one letter MUST come from the advisor or coach of the club/sport.**
- **Physical applications can be scanned and emailed to Sray@GastonCancerServices.org or dropped off at our office at 306 S Columbia St, Gastonia, NC 28054. All applications are expected no later than September 1st**

NAME _____

SCHOOL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Do you have any conflict with the monthly meeting times? List the extracurricular activities you participate in or activities you plan on being involved in this school year. _____

If you work, will that conflict with monthly meeting times? _____

Why do you want to join Cancer Services' Youth Advisory Council? and what will you contribute to the group? Please write on a separate document. Please write a minimum of two paragraphs.

I understand that by turning in this application, I am making the commitment to volunteer my time on the Cancer Services' Youth Advisory Council for the 2026-2027 school year. I understand that I am expected to attend and participate in monthly meetings, trainings and community service. I understand that failure to maintain good attendance and participation will result in being dismissed from the group.

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____