

## SSP Youth Board Member FAQ's!

- 1) What exactly is the role of a board member?  
**The board members on the SSP Board have all the same responsibilities and commitments of an adult board member. We encourage youth board members so that we have input from youth aged young adults who are currently participating in the SSP program. Their insights are invaluable!**
  
- 2) Does a youth board member need any prior knowledge about how nonprofit organizations work?  
**It is not necessary because we explain everything at our orientation meeting the first night.**
  
- 3) Do parents or other family members need to attend the meetings? Would you prefer if the youth board member just came by himself/herself?  
**Due to the sensitive nature of the Board Meetings, friends, parents, and family members are asked not to attend the meetings, but they are welcome to drop off and pick up their youth before and after the meeting. They are also welcome to attend the evening meal if we have one.**
  
- 4) Can youth board members serve more than one term?  
**Usually youth board members only serve for 1 year, however, any youth board member is able to apply for another year provided that they are entering their junior or senior year of high school. However, it is very rare for a youth to serve more than one year so that we are able to give as many youth as possible the opportunity to serve on the board.**
  
- 5) I understand that one of the commitments of a youth board member is to contribute financially and reach out to potential donors. How much money is expected?  
**For personal commitments, each board member is asked to make a *significant* contribution according to her means. This is left up to the board member to decide what feels appropriate and significant. Additionally, contributions are asked to be made through SSP's 12x Donor program, which allows you to make a monthly gift year-round. Youth board members often pledge \$10-\$20/month.  
**As stewards of SSP, all board members are asked to participate in various fundraising activities throughout the year, including reaching out to potential and current donors. Activities may include writing a thank you note, making a thank you phone call, attending an event where donors will be present, and sharing fundraising letters with those board members think may consider making a gift to SSP.****
  
- 6) What are the overnight plans if a youth board member must stay multiple days? Will he/she be rooming with anybody?  
**The SSP Staff makes all arrangements before the meeting and relays that information to the youth board member. Most of the time, youth board members will stay in a local hotel**

located very close to the SSP offices. If there is another youth board member needing a hotel room they might room together in order to be cost efficient. The youth board members will get from the airport to the meeting in various ways. If the youth's plane has landed around the same time as another board member, she/he will most likely carpool via Uber or a rental car to the meetings. From the hotel, the youth board member will likely carpool with an adult board member who has a car. The SSP Staff will make sure that there is always 3 or more people when travelling anywhere with the youth.

- 7) Are all the meetings required? What if a youth board member's travel plans fall through?  
**All Board Meetings are required. We recognize that life happens and things happen that are unexpected and if you plans fall through with valid reason you will be excused from meeting.**
- 8) What should a youth board member bring to out of town meetings?
- \* Suitcase with clothes for however long the stay is
  - \* Water Bottle/Coffee Travel Mug
  - \* Homework in case there is free time
  - \* Cell Phone
  - \* Some Money for emergency
  - \* You SSP Board Binder
  - \* SSP Shirts/Gear to Wear Around!!!
  - \* A positive attitude on how to Make SSP Even Better!!!
- 9) Will the youth board member or his/her family be reimbursed for travel expenses? Is there a way of donating that money?  
**Yes. All travel expenses to and from the board meeting, including airfare and mileage are reimbursed. SSP asks for details of these costs so they can be tracked according to the budget, but board members are allowed to have their costs, or fraction of their costs, donated to SSP instead of reimbursed.**
- 10) How much time is needed to commit to being an active participant on the board?  
**The 4 quarterly board meetings, monthly calls for 30 min to an hour for your committees that you are on and any other help needed as part of those committees. Estimated an additional hour a month.**
- 11) What should I wear to the meetings and on the plane?  
**The meetings are usually very casual. Jeans and a t-shirt would be perfectly fine. It is a good idea to look up the upcoming weather in Sacramento so you can dress accordingly. As for the plane it is highly recommended to wear an SSP shirt so that anyone picking you up can easily recognize you at the airport.**

12) Do youth board members have the same role on the board as adult members, or are they “junior” members?

**Youth Board members have the same role and responsibilities on the board as adult members.**

13) How do youth board members get from the airport to the meeting? How do they get from the hotel to the meetings?

**Transportation to and from the airport is arranged with the SSP Staff prior to the board meetings. They may be picked up by private automobile driven by SSP staff or an adult board member. If the youth board member meets with another Adult SSP Board member, Uber or Lyft may be used for transportation.**

**Transportation from the hotel to the board meeting is done by carpooling with other Board Members via private automobile.**

14) Why does the board want youth members?

**Since the heart of SSP is working with youth and young adults, it is important for the Board to have the voice of youth who have participated in SSP. The insight of youth board members is invaluable to continuing the mission of SSP.**

15) How can a Youth Board member contribute? (Committee meetings, becoming a 12xSSP Donor, asking questions and reading materials, attending one or more programs during the year of their service, etc.)

**Youth board members can contribute in dozens of ways! Every board member is on two committees and is asked to be a 12x SSP Donor (see above), and participation in both is required for the duration of board service. Committee meetings typically happen once a month over the phone, in addition to the quarterly business meetings that happen in-person.**

**Youth board members are uniquely positioned to ask questions and participate in committees and business meetings because of your close knowledge of SSP as a participant. Some of our most successful ideas come from our youth board members!**