

YEA! STUDENT APPLICATION



LOCAL CONTACT

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>> yeausa.org

Find us on:    



U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

START AS A STUDENT, GRADUATE AS A CEO!

PERTINENT DATES

In the Young Entrepreneurs Academy, students have the opportunity to:

1. Come up with a big idea!
2. Pitch to a panel of investors for the opportunity to get real funding for their business!
3. Launch REAL businesses and social movements!
4. Market at the YEA! Tradeshow to create awareness, generate real sales & gain customers!

First day of class: Wed., October 23

Investor Panel Event: TBD

Graduation: April 30

Saunders Scholars Competition in Rochester
(one student will be selected to represent our class)

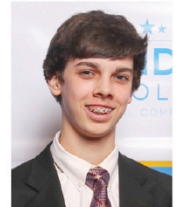
May 7-10, 2025

Dates subject to change – full schedule for the year will be provided to students on the first day of class

YEA! STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

Riley Benner, CEO, Phoenix Haberdashery, Rochester, NY

Riley Benner is a graduate of the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) class of 2014 at the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York. As part of the YEA! class, Riley turned his reversible necktie idea into a high-end men's accessory business—Phoenix Haberdashery. His revolutionary reversible neck-ties offer two ties for the price of one and allow the wearer a “quick-change” in case of a spill or stain during the day. Phoenix Haberdashery was crowned the 2014 YEA! Saunders Scholars National Competition winner in Washington, D.C., naming Riley as America's Top Young Entrepreneur! www.phoenixties.com



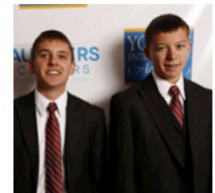
Rachel Zietz, CEO, Gladiator Lacrosse, Boca Raton, FL



Gladiator Lacrosse was founded in 2013 by then 13 year old seventh grade entrepreneur and lacrosse player, Rachel Zietz. Like every player wishing to improve his or her game, Rachel's coaches advised her to play “wall ball” and practice her shot as much as possible. However, the quality of the products she purchased would not hold up to the weather outdoors and were expensive. Participating in the YEA! Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce program, Rachel started a business that produces high-quality lacrosse equipment at an affordable price and Gladiator Lacrosse was born. www.gladiatorlacrosse.com

Tanner and Spencer Harrison, Co-CEOs, Campfire Industries, South Jordan, Utah

Tanner and Spencer Harrison, brothers and co-CEOs, graduated from the South Jordan YEA! class in 2013. Their business idea, the Wolf'Em Stick, is a pioneering product of their company, Campfire Industries. The Wolf'Em Stick is a unique tool that creates tasty dough treats over a campfire. The success of the Wolf'Em Stick earned the Harrison brothers 2nd place in the 2013 YEA! Saunders Scholars Competition, including a trip to America's Small Business Summit in Washington, D.C. Tanner and Spencer introduced their product at the South Jordan Country Fest in 2013, and sold 200 units. They were contacted by county mayor, Ed McAdams, who showcased Campfire Industries at the Lake County Fair, where they sold 600 units! www.wolfem.com



Brandon Boynton, CEO, MostBeastlyStudios LLC, Madison, Indiana



A 2014 graduate of YEA! Madison County, an incoming senior at Pendleton Heights High School in Indiana, and a member of the Madison County Chamber of Commerce Board, 17-year-old Brandon Boynton was a finalist at the YEA! National Saunders Competition last year. A self-taught iOS app developer prior to YEA!, he officially launched his business, MostBeastlyStudios LLC, and developed his featured app, The BullyBøx, through the YEA! program. Brandon has received numerous accolades in his short career, including a full scholarship to Apple's 2014 World Wide Developers Conference. He was also the winner of the US Congress 5th District STEM Competition and garnered considerable international media recognition. He was recently the youngest person ever nominated for a prestigious TechPoint “Rising Star” Mira Award. Brandon is the owner of The BullyBøx, as well as an assortment of other apps that embody his company's slogan “Apps that make a difference.” www.mostbeastlystudios.com

Kayla Abramowitz, Founder & CKO, Kayla Cares 4 Kids, Palm Beach Gardens, FL

Kayla Abramowitz, 13, of the Northern Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce YEA! class, Palm Beach Gardens, FL, won first place at the 2015 YEA! Saunders Scholars National Competition with her business idea, Kayla Cares 4 Kids, a non-profit organization that collects and donates entertainment and educational items to children's hospitals and Ronald McDonald Houses nationwide. Kayla, Founder & CKO (Chief Kid Officer), came up with the idea after she and her 9-year-old brother Ethan both experienced extended hospital stays due to chronic illnesses. Kayla Cares 4 Kids has already made headway on the mission to help children feel better with deliveries of nearly 6,500 DVDs, electronics & books to 65 children's hospitals and related facilities in 40 states, plus Washington, D.C. www.kaylacares4kids.org



STUDENT CRITERIA

The Young Entrepreneurs Academy is for students in grades 6-12 who have demonstrated creativity, innovative ideas, academic effort, determination, enthusiasm, the ability to communicate, and a commitment to their communities and families. Students who apply to the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) should be responsible individuals who pursue goals with tenacity. Prior experience in business is not required.

YEA! Academic Year:

**YEA! Academic year begins Oct. 23 and ends April 30.
Classes are on Wednesday nights from 5:00-7:30pm.**

***** Classes will be held at ICAN's Family Resource Center at 106 Memorial Parkway in South Utica (corner of Holland Ave.)**

Young Entrepreneurs Academy Tuition:

Tuition includes access to a network of local leaders and business professionals, built-in investment opportunities, field trips, events, books and supplies, and the chance to compete for college scholarships!



\$995 Value – all students can experience YEA at NO CHARGE thanks to dedicated sponsors for the program

How to Apply:

1. Complete Part I and II of the application form.
2. Write your essay.
3. Request a copy of your most recent transcripts from your school.
4. Ask a teacher, guidance counselor, employer or community leader to provide a recommendation as indicated in Part IV. Recommendations should be kept confidential and mailed separately to the Young Entrepreneurs Academy.
5. Attend a personal interview with a YEA! Student Selection Committee member.



Application Deadline, Personal Interviews, and Acceptance Notification:

An application is considered complete when YEA! has received the application form, essay, transcript, application fee, and letter of recommendation.



Student interviews are conducted on a rolling basis.

Class size is limited and the admissions process is competitive.

Deadline for applications for the 2024-2025 year is October 7, 2024.

PART I – Student Information

Student Name	Age	DOB
Address		City / State / ZIP
Student's Email Address		
Student Phone (if applicable)		
School	Current Grade	Graduation Year
Parent / Guardian 1 Name	Email Address	
Place of Business	Primary Phone	
Parent / Guardian 2 Name	Email Address	
Place of Business	Primary Phone	

If someone recommended you to the YEA program, please provide their name here:

PART II – Student Response

SHORT ANSWER - On a separate sheet of paper please write a brief response to two of the following questions.

1. Why are you interested in learning about entrepreneurship?
2. If you are currently in the process of launching your own business or social movement, or you have a creative and innovative idea for a business or social movement, please describe.
3. What entrepreneurial endeavor/story, either from the past or currently, inspires you? Please describe.



ESSAY QUESTION

On a separate sheet of paper, please write a brief essay (approximately 300 words) on the following topic. You must submit this essay with your completed application to be considered for the Young Entrepreneurs Academy.

Successful entrepreneurs share similar characteristics, such as persistence, inquisitiveness, self-confidence, tolerance for failure, creativity, innovation, personal initiative, competitiveness, commitment, and strong management and organizational skills. Describe a situation when you demonstrated at least two of these characteristics, and the outcome.

PART III – Student Transcript

Your most current transcript from your school must be included with the application form in order to be considered for YEA!. Most guidance offices will be able to help you obtain these records.



PART IV – Letter of Recommendation

Ask a teacher, guidance counselor, employer or community leader to write a letter of recommendation. Your letter of recommendation should address how long the recommender has known you and in what context, your abilities, level of maturity, social skills, commitment to the community, and other characteristics that demonstrate you are a good candidate for the program. Letters of recommendation should remain confidential, and must arrive by the application deadline to be considered for admission. Your recommender may send the letter by mail, fax, or email.



How did you find out about the Young Entrepreneurs Academy?

- Teacher / Educator
 Mailing to Home
 Newspaper / Radio / TV
 Website
 Other

Please return all application materials to Michelle Truett at youngentrepreneursmvcc@gmail.com by October 7, 2024
Any questions, call or text: 315-534-0067

If my son/daughter is accepted as a student, I agree to abide by YEA! regulations and rules which can be found at www.yeausa.org. I understand that a payment plan must be selected and a deposit received and that no deductions or refunds will be given for cancellations, expulsion or withdrawal. Furthermore, I give permission for my son/daughter to attend all functions and activities connected with YEA!, including any which may be held off campus. I hereby release the Young Entrepreneurs Academy and the officers, trustees, employees, agents and volunteers of the aforementioned organizations for all actions, claims, or demands for damages resulting from my son/daughter's participation in the activities, and from liability and damages, injuries, or losses which might be sustained by my child, except those caused by the direct and sole negligence of the aforementioned organizations.

Both signatures are required.

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____ Date _____

Signature of Student _____ Date _____



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