



YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM



**Guidelines for  
State/ Local Association  
and Affiliated Organization  
Seeking to Sponsor Youth Ambassadors**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

What is NAD YAP.....	2
Expected Criteria.....	3
The Next Step.....	4
Fundraising.....	4
YAP Competition.....	5

## What is the NAD YAP?

The NAD YAP competition is an exciting and challenging national contest for deaf and hard of hearing youth, who are between the ages of 18 and 30. Contestants will compete against each other to determine who gets to be the next NAD Youth Ambassador. The competition includes proposing a **strategic plan to address a social issue or implement a new business idea or business start up** that would benefit the deaf and hard of hearing community.

The winner will take home **\$6,000**, win the title as “Youth Ambassador,” and engage in prime networking opportunities.

More importantly, the Youth Ambassador will get a chance to implement the winning strategic plan proposed during the competition!

## What can your state/ local association and affiliated organization do?

The NAD encourages state/local associations and affiliated organizations to sponsor and send a YAP representative to compete in the NAD YAP competition! Send your best and brightest youth to be your ambassador at the NAD YAP competition! State/ local associations and affiliated organizations should organize an event or contest to determine or select individuals that will represent you at the NAD YAP competition. Your organization does not need to have the same kind of contest as the NAD YAP to choose your YAP representative. There are many ways to choose your YAP representative, including through informal or formal events.

Here are two suggestions for selecting your YAP representative:

1. Host a formal competition: invite interested participants to compete in your own YAP competition, which can include three competition rounds. The three rounds can include the following tasks for participants (You can choose one, two, or all three of these rounds):
  1. Submit competition applications, including videos
  2. Appear for an interview (either in-person or through videophone)
  3. Perform on-stage at the state association or affiliate organization conference and/or events
2. Host an informal competition (especially if you have a limited budget), where you ask interested participants to submit applications with videos. You can select your association or organization representative based on the applications and videos.

The NAD YAP does not require that you follow a specific criteria in hosting your own YAP selection event, whether it is formal or informal. Your organization can choose to do what fits your budget, timeline, and schedule.

Once you have selected your organization's representative, please contact [nadyap@nad.org](mailto:nadyap@nad.org) for further instructions.

## Expected Criteria:

We encourage that your representative follow and satisfy these eligibility requirements:

- I. **U.S. Citizenship**—the representative must be a legal citizen and resident of the United States. Proof can be verified by submitting two (2) of the following documents:
  - a. A copy of the representative's current U.S. passport;
  - b. A copy of the representative's current U.S. driver's license; or
  - c. A copy of the representative's birth certificate
- II. **Age**—the representative must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and no more than thirty (30) years of age by the due date of the application.
- III. **Academic Status** - the representative must be a high school graduate or have a GED certificate by the time of the Youth Ambassador Program competition.
- IV. **Deaf or hard of hearing status**—the representative must be deaf or hard-of-hearing to be considered in this competition. For proof, please submit an audiogram signed by a certified health professional, showing evidence that the representative is deaf or hard of hearing in both ears prior to the Youth Ambassador Program competition.
- V. **Communication skills**—the preferred method of communication is American Sign Language (ASL).
- VI. **Ability to perform**—the representative must be prepared to deal with various activities of this fast-paced competition. Additionally, to participate at the NAD YAP Retreat and Competition, the representative must have current health insurance.
- VII. **Representation**—the representative must represent only the sponsor supporting the representative's participation in this competition. If the representative are chosen to be our NAD Youth Ambassador, the representative must represent only the NAD and may not endorse any products or companies during this two-year representation.
- VIII. **Background check**—the representative must never have been convicted of any felony crime or any other criminal conduct indicating moral turpitude. The NAD will conduct background checks to investigate.
- IX. **Availability**—the representative must be willing to travel to the location of Biennial NAD Conference and attend for two weeks – first, for the retreat a week prior the conference and second, for the conference itself. The YAP Retreat and the NAD Conference usually takes place during the end of June and beginning of July. Please visit [NAD.org](https://www.nad.org) for more details about the next Biennial NAD Conference.
- X. **Expenses**—the representative must be able to identify the sponsor or financial support by Round Two. All travel and accommodation expenses for the competition will be the sole responsibility of the contestant. The representative's application may be disqualified if there is no sponsorship or financial support information by Round Two.
- XI. **Membership**—the representative is required to be a member of the NAD by Round Two. Please visit <https://www.nad.org/join/> and sign up to become a member.

## You have a winner to send to YAP as your representative! What's next?

- 1) The first step is to have your representative apply for the NAD YAP competition. The application will become available online on [nad.org/youth/youth-ambassador-program/](http://nad.org/youth/youth-ambassador-program/). If you don't see the application, please contact [nadyap@nad.org](mailto:nadyap@nad.org).
- 2) If your representative is selected for the YAP Competition after Round 2, congratulations! You will need to discuss with your representative about funding for the costs of attending the YAP Retreat and NAD Conference. YAP participants are expected to pay for the following:

YAP Retreat (June 28 - July 1, 2020)	\$200 that includes lodging, transportation, fieldtrips, and meals.
Airfare (June 28 - July 5, 2020)	Roundtrip airfare depends on locations
Hotel (July 1 - July 5, 2020) [5 nights]	<p>Grand Sheraton Chicago 301 East North Water St Chicago, Illinois 60611</p> <p>You can discuss with your participant if they are willing to share room with your company/ organization. Please contact us if you are interested in sharing a room with other selected YAP contestant.</p> <p>Your representative can stay at a different hotel, if preferred.</p>
Conference Registration	<p>YAP Contestants are required to choose the NAD@Night package (\$220 value) AND the Youth Luncheon (under A-La-Carte - \$45 value) option.</p> <p>You will be given a code for the youth discount.</p>
Meals	Per diem. It is up to your company/ organization to cover their meals. YAP participants will be expected to sign up for the Youth Luncheon.
Spending Money	Contestants may need additional spending money for their own needs. It is up to the sponsor to determine if the sponsor will cover these additional needs.
NAD Membership	It is up to the sponsor to pay the NAD membership (\$25) for your representative or have the representative pay for it themselves.

### Fundraising:

We understand that the trip to the YAP Retreat and the NAD conference can be expensive. We strongly encourage your organization, along with your representative, to fundraise for these costs for the representative to attend the YAP Retreat/ NAD Conference. Here are some fundraising ideas:

- Host a mystery night or spaghetti dinner
- Do a Car wash

- Host a product fundraiser
- Host a garage sale
- Conduct a Bake sale
- Host a fundraising dinner at a local favorite restaurant
- Do a birthday gift/ holiday pledge

There are plenty of ideas, you can be creative!

## **The YAP Competition**

There are 5 rounds for a representative to go through to reach to the final YAP competition night. Each round will be evaluated and scored by judges and YAP committee based on the rubrics. The following rounds are:

- Round 1: Eligibility and Application
- Round 2: The VISion Board Challenge
- Round 3: Hot Seat Interview and Observation
- Round 4: Pitch and Network
- Round 5: The VISion Platform

More details are in the contestants package. Please contact [nadyap@nad.org](mailto:nadyap@nad.org) if you have any questions or want a copy of the package.