



“WE DECLARE  
AND DECREE,  
YOUTH CAN  
CHANGE  
THE WORLD”

The GYAC believes that there is no such thing as “tomorrow’s leaders” — youth can lead TODAY! They are emergent social change agents simply waiting to be empowered and elevated to make a difference in the transformation of their communities.

**ENGAGE:** At a minimum, to attract or empower people to participate. True engagement is to inspire a pledge or commitment with great anticipation and excitement for the future

**EMPOWER:** To ignite the innate capabilities of individuals that cause transformative actions. We believe empowerment is a self-actualized process.

**INSPIRE:** To bring forth positive regard by causing a person or community to see something as achievable that previously seemed impossible.



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ENGAGE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.

# THE GULFSOUTH YOUTH ACTION CORPS

ENGAGING YOUTH IN THEIR COMMUNITIES SINCE 2006

**THE GYAC VISION IS SIMPLE:** To ensure that no one will have to ask where our next generation of civic leaders will come from.

The Gulfsouth Youth Action Corps engages, empowers and inspires this community-focused youth leadership by providing mentoring, tutoring and other valuable services to youth.

In addition, The GYAC is committed to building community programs and services that perpetuate youth engagement and leadership, community philanthropy, entrepreneurial innovation and youth activism.

The Gulfsouth Youth Action Corps works to build the capacity of progressive youth organizations across the South by:

- Resourcing them with GYAC AmeriCorps members—college students and recent college graduates who spend a year working with GYAC partner organizations engaging, empowering, and inspiring community-focused youth leadership.

- Increasing investment in youth programs by leveraging local Gulfsouth Youth Action Funds

—youth led grant-making to support youth-led, youth-driven initiatives.

- Raising the profile of grassroots youth leadership through community events and awards; and

- Strengthening networks of youth leaders and youth leadership organizations across the South by convening community resources.

**HISTORY:** Desperation for youth programs gave birth to the formation of the Gulfsouth Youth Action Corps, which provided relief to the New Orleans Recreation Department after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita ravished the Gulf Coast region. The Gulfsouth Summer Youth Action Corps started as a service corps comprised of a national network of college students dedicated to rebuilding youth services and opportunities in the hurricane-affected region.



## The Gulfsouth Youth ACTION FUND

A YOUTH-LED, YOUTH-DRIVEN PHILANTHROPY INITIATIVE

The Gulfsouth Youth Action Fund is a youth philanthropy initiative that engages youth in leadership and empowers young leaders with the resources to make strategic investments in their peers and their communities. The GYAF's Youth Advisory Board selects and awards grants to top-notch youth-led, youth-driven projects working to improve their communities.

The GYAF's annual Youth Change Campaign highlights and honors outstanding youth leadership and youth involvement in community service. Outstanding young people are honored as Change Makers of the Year, with grants awarded on their behalf to an initiative of their choice.

The GYAF is led by a panel of up to 30 outstanding middle

school and high school-age students from diverse backgrounds.

Through their philanthropic efforts, the young participants of the GYAF develop valuable skills, including how to:

- Represent a social cause that he/she cares about.
- Develop a fundraising strategy and implement it
- Mobilize community support
- Entice others to give of their time, talent and treasure

Other local foundations and private funders have joined with this initiative to provide funds for youth to re-grant and to provide support to this grant-making effort. The fund is housed at the Greater New Orleans Foundation.

### THE GYAC'S VISION

- ▶ To lead a paradigm shift from "youth-serving" to youth-led and youth-driven service delivery models.
- ▶ To increase philanthropic investment in youth leadership and youth inspired social innovations in the American South.
- ▶ To build capacity and support networks of progressive youth organizations that are cultivating in youth the ideals of activism and service.
- ▶ To build resilient communities where youth can live, learn, lead, thrive, and grow.

### GET INVOLVED

The Gulfsouth Youth Action Corps offers a number of valuable partnership opportunities for volunteers, organizations, schools, government agencies and other stakeholders

- Youth recruitment and training
- Volunteer Recruitment and training
- Philanthropic Partnerships
- Volunteer Service Partnerships
- And Much More!

FIND OUT MORE AT  
[WWW.THEGYAC.ORG](http://WWW.THEGYAC.ORG)

