



## NATIONAL YOUTH MENTORING ADVISORY COUNCIL

### OVERVIEW & PARTICIPATION PROCESS

#### **WHAT IS THE NATIONAL YOUTH MENTORING ADVISORY COUNCIL (NYMAC)?**

NYMAC is comprised of young people across Canada who provide consultation, undertake projects, and take a leadership role in supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada on issues related to youth mentoring in Canada.

Previously, NYMAC members have had the opportunity to participate in events like YOUth in Office; where they go to Ottawa to meet members of the government to talk about issues of importance, and participate in BBBSC's National and Regional Conventions where they fly into different cities across Canada to gather with local Big Brothers Big Sisters staff. NYMAC members also serve on various BBBSC National Committees and Groups (Research and Trends, Diversity Working Group).

#### **Applicant Requirements**

- A current volunteer within BBBS Canada (any agency) for at least one (1) year
- Between the ages of 17 to 28
- An active volunteer or a mentee within their agency program(s)
- Capacity to meaningfully engage and contribute to projects and initiatives of NYMAC

(Some exceptions may apply, for example: You are currently waiting to get a mentee or mentor, student placement or employee)

- An alumnus is able to re-apply after formally leaving for 2 years

#### **Interview**

- Interviews will be conducted with successful applicants to ensure good fit with the rest of NYMAC. Interviews will be conducted by the governance team and/or NYMAC executive committee.

#### **Benefits of Joining NYMAC:**

- Help shape the future of mentoring for youth across the country, by sharing your expertise and lived experiences
- Gain new skills around leadership, public policy, and public speaking
- Bring attention to issues important to youth

- Build your professional network
- Participate in events such as BBBSC National Convention and in-person NYMAC meetings (subsidized travel opportunities)

The National Youth Mentoring Council (NYMAC) is comprised of two formal groups: Members at Large (MAL) and Youth at Large (YAL). Please read below to find out which role suites you best.

## **GENERAL INFORMATON ABOUT BEING A MEMBER AT LARGE (MAL)**

### **What is expected of the Youth Mentoring Advisory Council members?**

MAL Council members will meet to discuss strategic priority areas identified and discussed. Specific priorities are actioned and advanced through meeting times as well as interactions with each other outside of meetings to further discuss ideas and advance specific tasks. We will focus on tackling specific issues such as Youth Visibility; Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; Youth Employability; Mental Health, Mentoring, Youth Engagement and more.

### **How long will members sit on the Youth Mentoring Advisory Council?**

MAL Youth members sit on the Council for a two-year term and may renew their term 2 times for a total of six years on the Council.

### **Can I choose to leave the Youth Mentoring Advisory Council before my two-year term is over?**

Yes. If you choose to do so, please let the NYMAC Executive know about your decision and you will be asked to complete the exist survey.

### **What is the time commitment for Council members?**

Monthly 2-hour meetings are held, as well as at least one specific committee meeting per month. General members are expected to attend all monthly meetings.

Sub-committee meetings could take place on weekdays or weekends or various times. Council members will be notified in advance of the meeting schedule or changes. All sub-committee meetings are flexible to accommodate individual members and in considerations to current projects/work.

NYMAC and individual council members will have to opportunity to travel with all essential and pre agreed upon expenses covered for in-person meetings, events, consulting or other required NYMAC presence. (some conditions may apply).

## **GENERAL INFORMATON ABOUT BEING A YOUTH AT LARGE (YAL)**

### **What is Youth at Large (YAL)?**

YAL provides key insights to NYMAC members and to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada on the current issues from the lens of the youth in the communities around Canada.

This was created to ensure that the youth voices in our greater communities are heard and represented in our projects. Additionally, YAL is a body of young Canadians that will work alongside NYMAC to tackle specific issues such as Youth Visibility; Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; Youth Employability; Mental Health, Mentoring, Youth Engagement and more.

### **Key Responsibilities**

- Work in collaboration with other NYMAC members i.e., assist in the implementation of activities and projects assigned to NYMAC
- Actively participate in subcommunities
- Attend Virtual Meetings (YAL to attend at least six meetings in a calendar year)
- Perform other pertinent duties as requested from time to time by the NYMAC Executive body

### **Participation**

#### **What is expected of the NYMAC-YAL members?**

YAL member will meet virtually and are expected to attend a minimum of 6 meetings per year.

YAL members may have the opportunity to travel with all essential and pre agreed upon expenses covered for in-person meetings, events, consulting or other required NYMAC presence. (Some conditions may apply)

#### **How long will members sit on the National Youth Mentor Advisory Council?**

YAL members sit on the Council for a two-year term and may review their term two times for a total of six years on the Council.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT BEING JOINING NYMAC**

#### **How are applicants selected to become members of the Youth Mentoring Advisory Council?**

Youth are asked to fill out the application below and submit it along with a resume and reference letters for consideration. Once an applicant has been shortlisted based on; participation in local mentoring organizations and community engagement, a strong connection to the issues and activities of their communities and who can best represent their constituents.

Once shortlisted, youth will be invited for a one-hour interview via technology. Following the interview, a determination of fit will be made and notification to the applicant will be completed.

#### **If I am selected for the Youth Mentoring Advisory Council, what happens next?**

You will receive an email from a NYMAC representative of your acceptance and next steps for on boarding.

**If I am selected as a member of the National Youth Mentor Advisory Council, can I serve more than one mandate?**

Yes, you may serve more than one mandate, you must be active in a local or provincial mentoring organization or other volunteer activities and maintain all minimum requirements. (Some expectations may apply)

**Can I choose to leave the National Youth Mentor Advisory Council before my mandate is over?**

Yes. If you choose to do so, please let one of the Executive members of NYMAC know about your decision and when you would like to leave. You will be required to fill out an exit survey.

**What is the time commitment for Council members?**

On average, Council members can anticipate spending up to 4 to 10 hours per month on Council-related activities. Council members can take on more with consideration of increase of time commitment/responsibilities.

**Will the meetings take place on school days or weekends?**

Meetings could take place on weekdays or weekends. Council members will be notified in advance of the meeting schedule.

**If I have questions, who can I ask?**

All NYMAC members will be happy to ask any questions, once you have an active teams account you can ask questions on any of the NYMAC channels or individual members. During the on boarding process, you will be in direct contact with the Executive team and governance team that will be able to guide you and answer any questions you may have.

**Are there other ways for me to get involved?**

Yes! Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada is committed to getting Canadian youth engaged at many levels, spanning issues that cross many departments. When you fill in your application, you will be asked whether you would like to be contacted to participate in other youth engagement opportunities in other areas of work with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada. These opportunities can vary by department and province and include the chance to sit on youth committees with various departments/provinces, participate in roundtable discussions on various topics, and much more. These opportunities are ongoing and give young Canadians an excellent chance to have their voices heard on youth mentoring issues in Canada (or some language to focus role/input on our work).