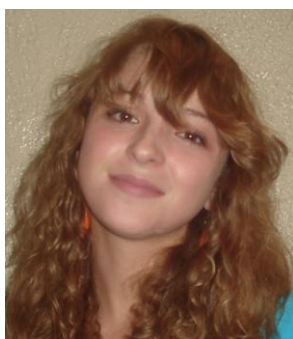


Youth Alliance



The New Mexico Youth Alliance is a statewide advisory board comprised of youth representatives, one from each legislative district. The Alliance, established in 2003 by the Youth Council Act, enables state lawmakers and administrators to create and refine youth policies with the benefit of input and recommendations from youth throughout New Mexico. The Youth Alliance is comprised of up to 112 youth members, each of whom has an adult partner.



"Being part of the Youth Alliance has not only been an awesome and fun experience, it has also granted me the opportunity to meet and work with youth and adults that inspire me. Through my experience in the Youth Alliance I have figured out I can make a difference"

–Paola Castillo Youth Alliance Representative, Albuquerque, NM

Why do we need a Youth Alliance? A Youth Alliance is essential for ensuring that youth have a meaningful voice in the state's political process. Youth members meet regionally with other youth in cooperation with the New Mexico Forum for Youth and Community.

- Youth members collect information in order to enable the Youth Alliance to develop an annual prioritized policy platform of youth issues.
- Youth meet on a statewide level up to four times a year to discuss youth issues and present their platform and related recommendations to the Governor, the Lt. Governor, and Children's Cabinet.
- Youth members mobilize local youth networks to make positive change in their community and advise local officials and community leaders on youth issues.



Youth Member Responsibilities

Each respective Youth Alliance member agrees to meet the following responsibilities:

- Serve up to two years.
- Meet regionally with other youth in cooperation with the New Mexico Forum for Youth and Community.
- Conduct a community impact project that draws on the lessons and perspectives learned through the statewide Youth Alliance meetings.
- The projects might include service learning, the arts, youth leadership, education and outreach on a particular issue or volunteering for community organizations.

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