

Apply to Join the Youth Council

to plan ASAN's First-Ever Youth Food & Farm Forum!

About the Food & Farm Forum and ASAN

ASAN is a grassroots network whose mission is to deepen relationships among the people of Alabama, the food we eat, and the place we live. ASAN was formed by bringing together farmers and other local-food stakeholders to share knowledge, resources, challenges, and solutions, but also to create space for shared community and social support. ASAN reaches over 3000 farms, ranches, farmers markets, businesses, nonprofits, government agencies, and households.

For many years, the (adult) Food & Farm Forum has been the primary annual gathering of ASAN's statewide network of farmers, gardeners, community leaders, and good food advocates. In 2018, approximately 200 diverse participants from across the state will convene for a weekend of community-building and fellowship combined with peer-to-peer, hands-on learning in the form of workshops, panel discussions, and breakout conversations.

In 2018, alongside the (adult) Food & Farm Forum, for the first time ever we will be holding a Youth Food & Farm Forum geared towards youth ages 14-21.

About the Youth Food & Farm Forum

One of ASAN's core beliefs is that a resilient agricultural system must be intergenerational. To ensure the mission of ASAN is sustained beyond our time, we feel it is imperative to involve the next generation of farmers and agricultural visionaries now, not only as the so-called "leaders of tomorrow," but in recognition of all the ways in which youth are also the leaders of today, of right now.

Our main objectives in implementing the Youth Food & Farm Forum are:

1. to empower and inspire young attendees from throughout our state to cultivate interest in agriculture and food systems, and
2. to intentionally create space within our organizing in which youth are heard, valued, meaningfully involved, and encouraged to take up leadership.

Target attendance for the Youth Forum is between 40-50 youth ages 14-21. The Youth Forum program will consist of **6-10 sessions on topics ranging from agricultural production, food sovereignty, community/grassroots organizing, and more.** These sessions will be led by guest presenters, with an emphasis on youth-led sessions, hands-on sessions, and sessions geared towards building hard skills and critical analysis. Specific decisions about the topics and presenters featured, session formats, and other logistics, will be made by the Youth Council (see below) and the Youth Forum Coordinator.

About the Youth Council

The Youth Council will be comprised of 6-10 youth (ages 14-21) from around the state who, between July and December 2018, will help to plan and develop the 2018 Youth Food & Farm Forum. Youth Council members will have the opportunity to build skills in event planning, outreach, and leadership, and to build

collaborative relationships with other youth around the state, all while working towards the successful execution of a first-of-its-kind statewide event.

The Council will meet, along with the Youth Forum Coordinator, for monthly meetings via Zoom (by phone and/or computer). At these meetings the Council and the Coordinator will make decisions regarding the topics/presenters to be featured at the Youth Forum, create and roll out a strategy for effective outreach and promotion, and oversee logistics relating to registration, lodging, and more.

Youth Council members will attend the Youth Forum Dec 7-8 in Nauvoo, AL, and their registration and lodging will be waived as part of their service to the Council. (They may also receive a travel stipend, if funds allow.) They will participate in the Forum while also serving as go-to point people for the Youth Forum Coordinator, should the need for any last-minute event-related decision-making arise.

Qualifications

- Young person (age 14-21) with a passion for sustainable agriculture, local food, land stewardship, food justice, and community organizing as ways to build community and improve our ecosystem, economy, and society
- Community engagement skills, and interest in engaging your peers/community members around sustainable agriculture, local food systems, food justice, and grassroots organizing
- Ability to work respectfully with a wide range of groups and individuals, including LGBTQ+ (lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/queer/questioning+) people, people of different races and political backgrounds, and people with disabilities
- Time, willingness, and ability to spend 5-15 hours per month on Youth Council work, including attending monthly (virtual) meetings and attending the Youth Food & Farm Forum December 7-8, 2018 in Nauvoo, AL

Deadline to apply: July 9, 2018

YOUTH COUNCIL APPLICATION

Please email or mail your completed application by July 9, 2018 to:
ASAN, PO Box 2533, Birmingham, AL 35202 OR youthforum@asanonline.org

CONTACT INFORMATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Name _____ Age _____

Street address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email address _____

Phone number _____ Cell Home Other _____

Best way(s) to contact you: Email Phone call Text Other _____

Race/ethnicity (optional) _____ Gender (optional) _____

Gender pronouns (optional) She/her He/him They/them Other _____
(ie., how do you want others to refer to you in the third person, if/when not using your name?)

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Please answer all of the following questions. Feel free to attach additional pages if you need more space.

1. Why do you want to be a part of the Youth Council to plan the ASAN Youth Food & Farm Forum?

2. What skills do you have to offer as part of the Youth Council?

3. What background, if any, do you have with ASAN, including having attended past ASAN events?

Permission Form for Youth Under 18

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We welcome your child to apply to ASAN's Youth Council. If accepted, the Youth Council will help grow their knowledge around food and agriculture and help to build their leadership and community organizing skills.

If you have questions regarding ASAN or the Youth Council, please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

Alice Evans
Executive Director
Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network
(256) 743-0742
alice@asanonline.org

I _____ give permission for _____ to apply and,
(parent/guardian name) (applicant name)
if accepted, to participate in ASAN's Youth Council, from July through December of 2018.

I understand the commitments required for this program and vouch for the above student's access to transportation to be able to attend the Food & Farm Forum on December 7-8, 2018, at Camp McDowell in Nauvoo, AL (near Walker/Winston County line, northwest of Birmingham).

Printed name of parent/guardian _____

Signature of parent/guardian _____ Date _____

Home phone: _____

Work phone: _____

Cell phone: _____