



### **What is the PATH Youth Advisory Board (YAB) and why should I join?**

The youth advisory board is a group of young people that discuss issues that affect youth in Northwest Indiana. These discussions can be either specific to PATH or about legislation, policy, advocacy, etc. From these discussions, the Youth Advisory Board makes recommendations to PATH. You should join the Youth Advisory Board to join other young adults who want to accomplish PATH's mission, which is to equip, empower and encourage youth to make healthy choices. If you are an advocate for your fellow peers or want to be a youth advocate, then being on YAB is a step in the right direction for you! Not only does it give you an opportunity to be a mentor to your peers, to have input regarding the future of A Positive Approach to Teen Health, and be an ambassador for PATH you can advocate and consider legislation that is targeted toward the youth population. Guest speakers will be a regular part of YAB meetings allowing youth to network with community members and gain insight on other youth and social organizations.

### **How and when do PATH Youth Advisory Board Members meet?**

The YAB meets once a quarter at the PATH office. Additional meetings may be held as needed and occasional conference calls will be held (members call into a special number and talk to each other over the phone). YAB members also communicate by email in between meetings.

### **What do I have to do if I'm on the PATH Youth Advisory Board?**

Being a member of the PATH YAB comes with several responsibilities. The following are expected of all Youth Advisory Board members:

- Get to know PATH and its programs.
- Blog every month on the PATH Youth Blog @ [www.pathblazer.org](http://www.pathblazer.org) .
- Participate in quarterly meetings and conference calls and be willing to discuss current issues.
- Respond to all advocacy alerts from PATH (calls and letters to legislators etc.).
- Participate on the PATH Facebook page – help keep communication going.
- Spread the word about PATH to other youth in your community.
- Participate in PATH Community Events.
- Uphold your standards of making healthy choices.

### **Who leads the PATH Youth Advisory Board?**

The YAB is led by Michael and Abby Hansen. They sit as members of the PATH Board of Directors and represent the PATH Board at all YAB meetings. Their position is that of a facilitator for the discussions and decisions made by the YAB as a whole and are not the decision makers for the YAB.

### **What are the benefits of being on the PATH Youth Advisory Board?**

Being on the YAB has many benefits, but most importantly, it gives you the opportunity to stay connected to PATH throughout the year. You are introduced to PATH's programs, curricula, staff and board. As a member of YAB, you will have a lasting impact on the future of your community by being an advocate of PATH when legislation is being voted on. As part of your PATH YAB experience, you will take an annual trip to Day on The Hill to meet with legislators and share your stories and viewpoints and to educate them regarding the latest statistics related to youth trends is also a part of your PATH YAB experience. A small fee for each YAB member will help cover the costs of this trip. The trip is not required, but an extra opportunity offered to YAB members. Being on the Youth Advisory Board will give you the benefit of being able to meet different individuals from organizations all throughout Northwest Indiana and possibly other states and will help you be able to make connections with these people.

Please answer the following questions.

**What is your past experience with PATH?**

**Why do you want to be on the PATH Youth Advisory Board?**

**What youth issues are important to you and why?**

**How do you demonstrate leadership in your school or community?**

**In what ways will your participation add to the PATH Youth Advisory Board?**

**How do you see PATH playing a role in your future accomplishments and aspirations?**

**Additional comments or thoughts you would like to share...**

**Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(If applicant is under 18 years of age, parent signature required.)**