Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

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Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

UCS Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Grade: 9 10 11 12

How many years have you been a UCS member? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have access to internet at home? Yes No

Can you meet at the SOWI Headquarters in Madison approximately 4x per year? Yes No

Can you attend winter, spring, and summer games for a weekend (with significant notice)? Yes No

Attached to this application, please submit the following:

* One letter of recommendation from an adult who is not related to you
* A letter/statement explaining the following:
  + Your leadership experience
  + Your Unified Champion Schools experience
  + How you would contribute to the YAC/Special Olympics WI?

**Please email completed applications to Jahlieh Henderson at** [**jahliehhenderson@gmail.com**](mailto:jahliehhenderson@gmail.com) **by May 3, 2019.**

**Wisconsin Youth Activation Committee (YAC) for Unified Champion Schools**Wisconsin Youth Activation Committee (YAC) for Unified Champion Schools is a select group of student athletes and partners from across the state that have demonstrated great leadership and compassion for Special Olympics athletes. They will serve as youth liaisons to the SOWI UCS Staff in planning and implementing UCS in schools and communities throughout the state. They will also play an important role in the planning and execution of the Youth Activation Summits.

**Become a Member**The statewide Youth Activation Committee is currently accepting new members! If you believe you are qualified candidate and are interested becoming a committee member, please submit a completed application to Jahlieh Henderson at jahliehhenderson@gmail.com. Applications are due Friday, May 3rd, 2019 and will be accepted and reviewed until a full committee of youth with and without intellectual disabilities has been reached. You will be notified by Friday, June 7th if you have earned a spot on the SOWI YAC!

**What’s the schedule like?**

The time commitment is based on the student’s dedication. On top of video calls once a month and at least two in person meetings at the SOWI Headquarters in Madison, YAC members will be expected to participate in activities within their school that support Unified Champion Schools. Some students will devote more time than others, but we expect everyone to contribute in a meaningful way. Each member is responsible for their own transportation to and from meetings and activities.

**What would I have to do?**The responsibilities of the position are also dependent on the committee member. The main role of a YAC member is to provide leadership to Special Olympics and Unified Champion Schools by participating in major Special Olympics events. They provide advice and counsel on strategies designed to reach other youth, engage in and promote Special Olympics activities in their home environments, communicate the initiatives of Special Olympics and UCS, network with other youth locally and statewide, and review UCS materials for innovation and practicality. Below is a bulleted list of some expectations of YAC leaders.

* Plan the annual Youth Activation Summit (typically held in the fall)
* Collaborate with Wisconsin UCS schools regarding:
  + Spread the Word Rallies
  + Polar Plunges
* Attend State Games (winter, spring, and summer)
* Promote UCS in schools around Wisconsin

**Please read the following statements from current YAC members about their experiences!**

This year I had the pleasure of serving on the Youth Activation Committee for Special Olympics Wisconsin. Through this group I met so many new people that I continue to see at each of the events that I participated in including a youth summit, the winter games and the indoor basketball tournament. I’ve had so much fun planning events and meeting bright new faces and learning skills to bring back to my own community.

YAC is about creating memories, bonding with others, increasing your leadership skills, and making an impact in Wisconsin! SOWI YAC has had one of the biggest impacts on my life. Even though I don’t get to see the YAC every week, I still feel like it’s a family. I would have to say that my favorite event that the YAC did was either the youth summit or the volunteering at the basketball tournament. Both of these events were a blast to help at and plan.

Being on the Youth Activation Committee for the state of Wisconsin was a thrilling experience! I met so many new people and got to participate and experience in events that I may have not been a part of because of the YAC. Helping plan and volunteer was probably one of the best things about the YAC. Knowing that you are a part of teaching new leadership skills or even making somebody's day at an event is enough to join the ranks! For me, the best experience this year was the 2017 Winter Games at Rib Mountain. The YAC was up there handing out lunches and cheering on all the Athletes. It was such a blast meeting all the competitors and watching all the races! The dances are the best part, though! We got to set up and plan the dance; everyone looked wonderful in their Hollywood outfits! The YAC has been a very large part of my life this past year and the connections I have made have taught me so much! 

The Special Olympics Youth Activation Committee has given me so many opportunities and memories I wouldn’t have had without it. It has changed my life by giving me new friends and unforgettable experiences. Some of my favorite memories with the YAC include when we go to Special Olympics tournaments for a weekend at a time. I’ve made new friends because of the YAC and I get to spend weekends with them watching and volunteering at tournaments. My favorite tournament was the winter games tournament because it was outside in beautiful scenery and had many smiling faces competing in unique outdoor activities.