



AYLUS

The Alliance of Youth Leaders in the United States

Leadership
Integrity
Innovation

AYLUS Leadership Application Form

Name	Elissa Song
Grade	Rising junior
Branch Name	Lake Washington Branch
Current Branch Position	Vice President
City and State	Sammamish, Washington
Email	exuan.song@gmail.com 425-273-2337 (phone number)
Award(s) & Year(s)	PVSA Gold 2025 AVSA Gold 2026 Congressional Award Bronze Medal 2026
Position to apply (1 st Choice)	Chief Philanthropy Officer
Position to apply (2 nd Choice)	Secretary

Note: For applying committee chair position, please skip the 2nd Choice

Please email this application to: aylfus@gmail.com

Short Essay on why applying for this position (150-350 words):

Chief Philanthropy Officer:

Fundraising is never merely transactional, but it is genuine, community-based storytelling. When we ask for support, we provide our donors with a bridge to touch the underprivileged lives we serve, and a way to tangibly support those who they cannot otherwise reach. Just like how people say to “show, not tell”, we can tell a story of how simple interconnectivity and initiative greatly helps those in need without saying it through intentional aid. As a Chief Philanthropy Officer, I will weave emotionally resonant and data-backed initiatives that can persuade and turn passive observers into passionate donors and long-term advocates for causes like ours. By designing dynamic, purpose-driven initiatives with organizations and schools that enable us to continue giving back to our community, I will foster a culture of philanthropy where giving isn’t something people do reluctantly, but something that empowers and feels like an investment. For instance, I will propose and lead initiatives such as yard sales, selling AYLUS merch, hosting food stands, and representing AYLUS in local community events. The AYLUS Lake Washington Branch largely hosts teaching camps, and I can also preserve our unique branch identity by proposing donations for those who sign up for our camps. This is something that is very accessible and within reach for my capabilities as a CPO. Additionally, through clubs at school such as Psychology and STEM&Leaf club, I have coordinated a variety of similarly structured events in Eastlake such as “Club Fair”, “Welcome to the Pack Night”, and “Wolfest”. I’m confident that I’ll be able to apply this knowledge along with my experience in business and finance to also fundraise and promote at various events we also volunteer in, such as the CARES 5K Walk or the Little Master’s Bike-a-thon. I’ll transform our abstract mission statements into



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reality through continued support and various initiatives for AYLUS and its longevity, and I believe I will be able to build sustainable, scalable funding pipelines that ensure our nonprofit organization can continue its vital work for the coming years.

Secretary:

The outwards appeal of an effective organization is one of the most important aspects of branding, serving as a vital form of marketing through promotional content and communications. In a world that is becoming increasingly digitized—especially in the era of Gen Z—AYLUS focuses heavily on digital promotion through online content such as website volunteering reports and social media. I’ve managed the social media and communications of various clubs at my high school such as Psychology and STEM&Leaf club, and I have extensive experience in using engaging visuals to manage social media accounts and market these clubs on platforms like Instagram or Facebook. As someone with vast knowledge of making graphic design appealing from marketing classes and experience from these club officer positions, I can use this experience and my time management skills to properly promote AYLUS to a wider audience of young aspiring volunteers as a secretary. With my skills, AYLUS will be able to expand its digital presence, and that is especially crucial to surviving as a unique nonprofit in the 21st century. Additionally, I’m someone who has consistently exercised exceptional skills of coordinating work and communicating with others. As a senior instructor at my Taekwondo studio, I often coordinate the activities of the classes I teach, such as directing the assistant instructor in leading warm-ups and helping the head instructor teach the core curriculum. I believe my commitment to time-management and cooperation with others that I have learned from this extracurricular and my club involvement will help me get team members to update website content accordingly and with high-quality. Although updating website content doesn’t initially seem like something that really impacts AYLUS or its image, sometimes consistency and reliability are one of the strongest pillars that hold up student-led organizations like ours. In the position of secretary, not only will I be able to effectively use social media to promote and introduce high school volunteers to AYLUS through engaging and bold visuals, but also through more constant work such as getting team members to update website content.