

AYLUS Leadership Application Form

Name	Leo Zheng
Grade	12
Branch Name	AYLUS Roslyn
Current Branch Position	President
City and State	Roslyn, NY
Email	leo.zheng.y@gmail.com
PVSA Award(s) & Year(s)	2024: Bronze 2025: Gold 2026: Bronze
Position to apply (1 st Choice)	President
Position to apply (2 nd Choice)	Chief Philanthropy Officer

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):

Leaders are put in positions where they must think of others, make quick decisions, and solve problems. While leadership comes with challenges, it also provides opportunities to help others grow. Throughout my time in AYLUS, I have learned that effective leadership is about overcoming obstacles and empowering others.

As a leader, I am faced with problems. I try to treat these problems as building blocks rather than obstacles because they help us grow from experience. Over my time serving as AYLUS Treasurer, National Committee Chair of Fundraising, and now President of the Roslyn Branch, I've learned that every challenge presents a chance to improve something. I put this mindset into action last year when we faced a funding shortage. After researching corporate donations, I reached out to Bloomberg Philanthropies to see if they would support AYLUS. Although that effort wasn't successful, I didn't give up. During my research, I learned that some foundations are required to distribute funding before the end of the year. Because of that, I shifted my focus to organizations and connected with the Song Family Foundation, securing \$2,000 to support AYLUS Headquarters and our Roslyn CP Nassau volunteer work.

AYLUS is where I grew into a leader, and I want to continue its tradition of developing future leaders. I joined wanting to help my community, but through organizing events, mentoring new members, and taking on responsibilities, I learned how to lead and solve problems. As president, one of my goals is to create opportunities for members to take ownership of projects and develop leadership skills. I've seen how engaged volunteers become when they're working on something they care about, such as our robotics group, where members were willing to take initiative and contribute beyond what was required. By expanding interest-based programs and encouraging newer members to help organize and lead them, I hope to give others the same opportunities that helped me grow. Being able to guide members as they gain confidence, take on responsibility,

and eventually mentor others themselves is how I hope to pass the torch and keep AYLUS running for years to come.