

AYLUS Leadership Application Form

Name	Claire Cao
Grade	12th
Branch Name	Twin Cities Branch
Current Branch Position	President
City and State	Minneapolis, MN
Email	Claire.cao888@gmail.com
PVSA Award(s) & Year(s)	PVSA Gold (2023), PVSA Gold (2024), Would've had PVSA Gold (2025) if it still ran
Position to apply (1 st Choice)	Chief Philanthropy Officer
Position to apply (2 nd Choice)	Project Manager (Food Security)

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):

As Chief Philanthropy Officer, I hope to use the opportunity to fundraise for issues that I believe matter that are the most critical currently. In a world where scientific research funding is at its most vulnerable, I believe that I would be able to utilize this opportunity to organize national fundraisers dedicated to advancing scientific research, thus building on the efforts recently organized at our local branch to donate funds for cancer research at St. Jude's Hospital. Thus, with a national leadership position, I hope to be able to initiate fundraising efforts not just locally but on a large-scale national platform to ameliorate the lives of those who desperately depend on science and medical care.

Aside from scientific research being a vital issue, another issue that I am greatly passionate about fixing is hunger. Thus if elected as project manager, I would be dedicated to food security.

I believe that as hunger becomes more and more widespread due to global warming and resource scarcity, it is imperative that AYLUS as a national organization should work to reduce food insecurity not just regionally but through coordinated nation-wide efforts. Using my previous experience as hunger committee chair the past two years and now President of the largest branch in the Midwest, I can bring these plans to fruition as project manager for hunger by promoting a competition-model approach across all AYLUS branches to start their own food drives. Using strength in numbers, organizing such an event across branches would greatly benefit those in need with a much larger impact. I would also provide resources to branches to find meal-packing events by sharing resources and guides which in particular helps newly developing AYLUS branches to access a variety of events and start gaining momentum for events. Our own Twin Cities branch grew from 30 when I initially joined to 120+ members, partially thanks to my



leadership over the years through a focus on hunger events that attracted new volunteers. By scaling this model, we can boost this impact all across the United States.