



## RILEY

As a youth advisory board member, I was able to form connections with people within our Louisville community. In addition, I enjoyed the volunteer projects and being able to make a difference locally. This is also the main reason I applied to the board: to meet new people who shared a passion for positively impacting Louisville. While on the board, I developed leadership skills, guiding community members in a tour of the new rec center last year and participating in different service projects. These activities also helped to build my confidence.

On the board, we typically did one community service project a month, these included helping out at Pancakes with Santa and volunteering at a soup kitchen. Throughout the year we also lead one big project, with last year's being a RTD flex ride promotion among youth. This project was planned and talked about during our monthly meetings, occurring on the first Thursday of each month. Through the youth advisory board, I feel like I've really been able to represent the youth of Louisville as well as build lasting friendships and connections within the community.

## SPOTLIGHT ON

I applied to the board to make more of a difference in the community and to become more comfortable sharing my opinions. Through this position, I have had the opportunity to make a difference in Louisville and Boulder County area by helping at soup kitchens, donation centers, children's functions at the Rec Center, and various other events. Volunteering through YAB is so rewarding because at many of the functions I can directly see the effect I am making, whether it be interacting and teaching people in the community or seeing the joy and smiles coming from kids I have helped. In addition, I have met lots of new people my age who share the interest of helping; this has made the hours of service pass by in no time. Through this position, I have learned more about effective communication, the inner workings of how cities function and evolve, and how to be more selfless. I definitely recommend joining the Youth Advisory Board if you are in middle or high school and are interested in expanding your interests!

## SOPHIE



## What did you enjoy about being a Youth Advisory Board member?

During my seven years on the Board, I met many like-minded youth, shared my voice and opinions, and volunteered for various worthy causes. Every year, I was excited and motivated to begin participating in YAB activities and I am grateful for many positive interactions with community members.

## What did you learn from being a Board member that you'll use in life/school?

Being a member of the YAB has allowed me to practice key skills such as leadership, collaboration, and community service. It provided me and my fellow members the opportunity to practice and reinforce these skills throughout high school. I have gained confidence in my ability to accomplish anything that I set my mind to and this has translated well to work and academic settings, and I now feel empowered to be successful in college.

## How much time did you spend on your Board member activities?

Time effort was dependent on the subject of our annual project. A few years ago, the YAB decided that we wanted to have an event to encourage usage of the wonderful trail system in Louisville, which required a lot of time to communicate with businesses. Outside of our annual project, we have monthly meetings and volunteer projects which range from 3-6 hours.

## Did you make any lasting friendships/mentorships by being on the Board?

I have met many incredible people throughout my time with the board. During my first year on the board, I met a senior member who assisted me during my college decision. She had attended a school I was considering and I was able to have all of my concerns or questions answered by her. I feel lucky to have been able to spend time with so many incredible people from my community, including our awesome and supportive Liaisons and City Council members.

**KAYLIX**

