

Youth for Innocence Chapter Application Form

Thank you for your interest in establishing a Youth for Innocence chapter! Please complete the following application form and email a scanned copy to bijan@youthforinnocence.org once it is completed. Please note that **all members** of your chapter must complete the online training course available on the Youth for Innocence website. Your chapter will not be officially approved until **at least 5 members** have successfully completed this training.

Requirements:

1. Your chapter must have **at least 5 volunteers** (including the Chapter Leader). We highly recommend obtaining the signatures of at least 10 members, to ensure you can consistently meet the 5-volunteer requirement throughout the school year.
2. Your chapter must **collectively** commit to a minimum of **20 hours per week** toward casework and other activities. A lack of casework from the chapter may result in warnings or revocation of chapter status.
3. Your chapter must have an **in-person meeting space**. Whether it be at a member's house, a school building, or somewhere else, Youth for Innocence's chapter program aims to foster in-person collaboration.

Once the form is submitted and the requirements have been met, you will receive a copy of the completed application form. Chapters may request funding for projects. Youth for Innocence encourages chapters to propose budgets for community initiatives.

1. Proposed Chapter Name:

(This name should follow the structure of "Youth for Innocence at [school/region name]." For example, "Youth for Innocence at NYU" or "Youth for Innocence at Los Angeles.")

2. Proposed Chapter Leader:

3. Are you a part of a school or a region?

(Check one)

☐ School

☐ Region

3a. Name of school or region:

4. How many members are part of your chapter?

5. Is this chapter an official school club?

(Check one)

☐ Yes

☐ No

5a. If yes, is there a faculty advisor? (This is not required, but highly recommended.)

Advisor Name:

Advisor Email:

8. Where is your meeting space?

(Select all that apply)

☐ School building

☐ Member's house

☐ Public space

☐ Other: _____

7. When are the chapter's set meeting times? If there are no meeting times, why?

8. Is anyone on your team willing to store a case file in a secure location (i.e., at their house/dorm)?

(Check one)

☐ Yes

☐ No

9. Does anyone on your team have a feeder scanner? Are they willing to use it to scan a case file if needed?

(Check one)

☐ Yes

☐ No

10. Youth for Innocence tries to give chapters local wrongful conviction cases which align with their interests to increase motivation and expedite casework. Some cases may be less gruesome (e.g. attempted murder), and others are more gruesome (e.g. child sex abuse). Please specify what type of cases you wish to receive, or what type of cases you wish to avoid.

11. Are there any special requests for your chapter, or extenuating circumstances of which Youth for Innocence should be made aware?

Member Signatures

All prospective members (including the Chapter Leader) should sign below. Only 5 signatures are required; however, the size of the chapter will largely determine access to initial funding and other resources. If needed, you may attach additional sheets with signatures.

As a prospective member, by signing, you agree to commit at least 2-3 hours per week to casework, and to collaborate efficiently with your team toward exonerating innocent prisoners.

[illegible]

Chapter Leader Agreement

By signing below, I, the Chapter Leader, commit to leading by example. I will take on the largest and most menial assignments when necessary and ensure cases continue to progress. I will treat wrongful conviction work with the seriousness it deserves. I will give regular updates on the chapter's progress on its cases, attending case updates meetings weekly (or sending a chapter member in my stead if I am unavailable). If my team is stuck, or if I simply want some feedback on an idea, I will reach out to the relevant director or other team members in leadership for guidance. We must work together to achieve our goal of exonerating the innocent.

I have filled out this form to the best of my ability. If I fall below 5 volunteers, for whatever reason, I will let Youth for Innocence know immediately so the organization can continue to ensure progress on cases. I will not jeopardize the chapter or damage the reputation of Youth for Innocence by performing needlessly risky or negligent actions. If such an action seems likely to contain some risk to volunteers or the organization as a whole, I will check in with Youth for Innocence leadership first.

Chapter Leader Name: _____

Chapter Leader Signature: _____

Date: _____

Administrative Approval

For Youth for Innocence Director Use Only

- ☐ Approved
☐ Sent Back for Revision
☐ Denied

If not approved, please provide reason:

Signature of Director of Post-Conviction Work:

Date:

Signature of President:

Date:
