



## Sioux Empire Coalition

### Join Our Youth Advisory Board!

The **Sioux Empire Coalition (SEC)** is a community coalition of over 85 organizations, united under the common goal to improve the quality of life for all by addressing critical health, safety, and social determinants of health, including reducing the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.

The Sioux Empire Coalition (SEC) invites interested **middle and high school students** to apply to become a student representative on the Sioux Empire Coalition Youth Advisory Board (SEC-YAB).

**Students will earn a minimum of \$250.00 scholarship upon fulfillment of the requirements listed below:**

- Expectation will be for participants to attend the initial planning retreat
- Attend at least 10 of the 15 SEC-YAB meetings, over the course of the year (August 2026 -April, 2027) held at times and days to be determined by the group members in September 2026
- Help create content for the SEC-YAB Instagram page or other appropriate social media outlets
- Help grow youth participation in prevention activities, projects, and programs.
- Students who attend the first 2 meetings and contribute will get a portion of their scholarship funds

#### **Additional information:**

- Middle through high school students are eligible to apply (If under 18, parent will need to sign permission slip)
- Scholarship can be forfeited if requirements are not met.
- Once selected, participants can participate until they graduate from high school without reapplying
- We utilize the app **GroupMe** to communicate.
- You are expected to communicate with the YAB group through GroupME if you are unable to attend a meeting.
- Scholarship payments will be made directly to the youth at our last meeting of the year.
- Meetings are held twice a month
- Online applications can be found at: <https://www.healthconnectsd.org/youth>

**Please contact:**

Fran Rice  
[director@healthconnectsd.org](mailto:director@healthconnectsd.org)

**In order to apply, please submit the following information via the online link.**

Full Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

School Name:

Grade Level:

**Submission Instructions:**

- Include a minimum of **one** (1) letter of recommendation  
(Letter can be from a teacher, clergy member, librarian, business owner.)
- The completed application should be submitted via google form:  
<https://www.healthconnectsd.org/youth>
- The deadline for submissions is open until **August 31st, 2026**

**Selection criteria:**

- SEC will potentially select up to ten participants
- Only completed applications will be considered.
- Participant selection will be completed by **September 10th, 2026**



Dear parent/guardian,

**The Sioux Empire Coalition (SEC)** is a community coalition of over 85 organizations, united under the common goal to improve the quality of life for all by addressing critical health, safety, and social determinants of health, including reducing the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.

The Sioux Empire Coalition (SEC) invites interested **middle and high school students** to apply to become a student representative on the Sioux Empire Coalition Youth Advisory Board (SEC-YAB).

**Students will earn a minimum of \$250.00 scholarship upon fulfillment of the requirements listed below:**

- Expectation will be for participants to attend the initial planning retreat
- Attend at least 10 of the 15 SEC-YAB meetings, over the course of the year (August 2026 -April, 2027) held from 4:30-6:00 pm on days to be determined by the group.
- Help create content for the SEC-YAB Instagram page.
- Help grow youth participation in prevention activities, projects, and programs.

**Additional information:**

- Middle school and high school students are eligible to apply (If under 18, parent will need to sign permission slip)
- Scholarship can be forfeited if requirements are not met.
- Once selected, participants can participate until they graduate from high school
- We utilize the app GroupMe to communicate. We expect you to communicate with us if you are unable to attend a meeting.
- Scholarship payments will be made directly to the youth at our last meeting of the year.
- Online applications can be found at: <https://www.healthconnectsd.org/youth>

**In signing this form, you are providing permission for your student to become a student representative of the SEC Committee and complete the above requirements.**

If you have any questions, please contact **Fran Rice** at [director@healthconnectsd.org](mailto:director@healthconnectsd.org)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name (Please print) : \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (Please print) : \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# SAMPLE LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

[Date]

[Your Name]

[Your Position]

[Your School or Organization]

[Your Contact Information]

To Members of the SEC-YAB Selection Committee:

I am writing to recommend [Candidate's Name] for an opportunity to be part of the Sioux Empire Coalition Youth Advisory Board, based on my experience working with them in [context, e.g., as their advisor, teacher, etc.] over the past [time period].

[Candidate's Name] skills include [list skills, e.g., leadership, effective communication, etc.], which they have applied effectively in various capacities such as [mention roles, e.g., Region VI Secretary, Chapter President, etc.]. Their work has been instrumental in achieving [mention specific outcomes, e.g., project success, community engagement, etc.]. For the reasons just noted, [Candidate's Name] would be an exemplary candidate to represent and advance the goals of the Sioux Empire Coalition Youth Advisory Team.

In conclusion, I strongly endorse [Candidate's Name] for a position on the Youth Advisory Board. Their previous dedication, leadership experience, and commitment makes them an ideal candidate for this role. Should you require further information or wish to discuss [Candidate's Name]'s qualifications in more detail, please feel free to contact me at [Your Contact Information].

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Position]

[Your School or Organization]