

Youth Rising Up Constitution and Bylaws

(Revised November 16, 2016)

PREAMBLE

We, as members of the Shorewood High School student body, desiring to improve the quality of life for African American students on campus and increase human relations between all students, do establish this constitution, in order to create an organization that demonstrates our resolve to promote, social, cultural, and academic health.

PURPOSE

- Represent the interest and concerns of African American students at Shorewood High School.
- Facilitate and enhance the academic success of African American students.
- Promote positive interaction, mutual respect, and understanding with other organizations.
- Create a sense of community and self-initiative for African American students within the Shorewood community.
- Encourage diversity on the part of the faculty, administration, and the student body at large.
- Support incoming African American students as they integrate into the campus environment.
- Discourage institutional and individual acts/symbols of racism.

ARTICLE I – NAME

Section 1: The name of the organization shall be Youth Rising Up

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Membership to Youth Rising Up shall be open to any current Shorewood High School student – regardless of race, sex, national origin, color, or creed – who is interested in improving human relations, and the quality of life for African American students in particular on the campus of Shorewood High School.

Section 2: Students interested/eligible for membership shall obtain membership by completing a membership application. These students shall remain members for the remainder of the academic year.

Section 3: Members may renew their membership the following academic year. Returning members will have to complete another application for the purposes of keeping contact information up to date.

ARTICLE III – LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Section 1:** The Leadership Team shall be the governing body of the Black Student Union and shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, & Historian.
- Section 2:** The duties of the Leadership Team members are as follows:
- A.** The President shall be the head the Leadership Team and represent the interest of Youth Rising Up at all appropriate school functions. The President is responsible for preparing the agenda along with the Vice President for all meetings. It is also their job to maintain order at all Youth Rising Up general assembly meetings.
 - B.** The Vice President shall assist in all duties of the President and shall assume the office and duties of President in lieu of an absence. Vice President shall call to order and adjourn the meeting of the General Assembly.
 - C.** The Secretary shall record minutes at all General Assembly and Leadership Team meetings and shall make them readily available to members upon request. The Secretary shall keep records of attendance at all Black Student Union meetings. The Secretary shall keep all files and calendars.
 - D.** The Treasurer shall be responsible for all financial correspondence pertaining to the Black Student Union. The Treasurer should be able to report financial records at meetings for the General Assembly. The Treasurer is also in charge of bookkeeping of all fundraising activities.
 - E.** The Historian shall keep a record of all Black Student Union activities and events to place in a yearly report and scrapbook. The Historian is also responsible for creating and maintaining the BSU's webpage and social media sites.
- Section 3:** The Leadership Team is allowed to miss only three (3) Leadership Team meeting and/or four (4) General Assembly meetings annually, excluding the summer.
- Section 4:** Excused absences are limited to class/work conflicts, family emergencies, school excuses, and sickness collaborated to the Leadership Team and/or Advisor.

ARTICLE IV – Cabinet Committees

Section 1: The Youth Rising Up shall include the following Cabinet Committees.

- A.** The Public Relations Committee shall be responsible for all school public relations (PR) pertaining to the Black Student Union. The Historian shall serve as an ex-officio member of this committee.
- B.** The Finance Committee shall be responsible for coordinating fundraisers for the Black Student Union. The Finance Committee reports back to the Treasurer with fundraising ideas/any monies collected from such fundraisers.
- C.** The Campus Social Committee shall be responsible for coordinating all social and cultural events for the Black Student Union. The Campus Social Committee reports back to the Historian with all news from Black Student Union activities.
- D.** The Community Service Committee shall be responsible for coordinating all community service event/projects for the Black Student Union. The Community Service Committee reports back to the Vice President.

Section 2: The Leadership Team, as necessary, shall appoint *ad hoc* (unplanned) committees of special interest/concerns of Youth Rising Up.

ARTICLE V - ELECTIONS

Section 1: There shall be an Elections Board, established to govern all elections; it shall consist of the Advisor(s) of Youth Rising Up and three (3) members of the General Assembly.

Section 2: Any member of Youth Rising Up running for a Leadership Team position shall not be eligible to serve on the Elections Board. The President with approval of the General Assembly shall appoint an alternate member to fill any vacancy that may occur.

Section 3: The Elections Board's duties consist of approving the applications and platforms of each candidate, the additional voting procedures, the design of the official ballot and the certification of the vote tally.

Section 4: The following procedures shall govern elections:

- A.** Elections shall be held on the last Tuesday in April of every academic year, unless a special election is needed to fill a vacancy.

- B. Youth Rising Up members must submit nominated in order to run for Leadership Team Positions. Nominations will be accepted no later than one-week prior to election day, unless a special election is needed to fill a vacancy.
- C. The Elections Board shall hold a special meeting in which all Leadership Team Candidates will be introduced. The Elections Board shall coordinate a debate among candidates for President and shall have the option to do so among candidates for other offices.
- D. All active members of Youth Rising Up shall be eligible to vote in elections for the Leadership Team.
- E. There shall be no absentee voting.
- F. A quorum, as defined in the Bylaws, is need to hold an election for the Leadership Team.

Section 5: Candidates for the Leadership Team must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 at the time of the application deadline. Other qualifications are as follows:

- A. Candidates for President must be an upperclassman at Shorewood High School. The candidate must also have at least (2) semesters of active membership in Youth Rising Up and must also have served on the Leadership Team or been in a committee position prior to becoming President.
- B. Candidates for Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian must be at least a Sophomore at Shorewood High School. The candidate must also have at least two (2) semesters of active membership in Youth Rising Up.

Section 6: Newly elected members of the Leadership Team shall be installed at the end of the Spring semester at the last Youth Rising Up General Assembly Meeting.

Section 7: Vacancies in the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Historian, and Treasurer shall be filled through a special election. The Elections Board shall be responsible for all applicable duties outlined in Article V, Section 3. Qualified Youth Rising Up members, as outlined in Article V, Section 5, shall be nominated during the first General Assembly meeting held after vacancy. A special election shall be held the following General Assembly.

ARTICLE VI – IMPEACHMENT

- Section 1:** Any Leadership Team member in violation of Article III, Section 3, in violation of any other section of the Constitution and Bylaws, and/or involved in any suspendable/expellable action that compromises the operation and integrity of Youth Rising Up, must appear before the Leadership Team for evaluation.
- Section 2:** In the event that violations have been proven through the evaluation process, a motion for impeachment shall be presented by the Leadership Team.
- Section 3:** A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the active members from the General Assembly and Leadership Team, is needed to remove a Leadership Team member.

ARTICLE VIII – GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

- Section 1:** Meeting of the General Assembly shall be held on a schedule agreed upon by the Leadership Team.
- Section 2:** The President or a petition of two-thirds (2/3) of active members may convene a special meeting of the General Assembly.
- Section 3:** Each meeting of the General Assembly shall include a Treasurer's Report, Minutes, Committee Report, and a President's Address.
- Section 4:** The Leadership Team shall determine the format of the General Assembly meetings. Any additions to General Assembly meetings shall be included in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

- Section 1:** The power to present plans to amend or repeal any section of the Constitution rests solely on the Leadership Team. Actions within the Constitution must be approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the active members.

ARTICLE IX - BYLAWS

- Section 1:** Bylaws, when consistent with the Constitution, shall be adopted, amended or repealed by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the active members. Any active member of the Black Student Union can present action within the Bylaws

to the Leadership Team for approval, at which time the proposed action will be presented before the General Assembly.

YOUTH RISING UP BYLAWS

TITLE 1 – ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: All students eligible for membership shall be granted active member status upon completion of the membership application. Those students that attend at least four (4) meetings in the Fall shall retain active member status through the Spring semester.

Section 2: All students eligible for membership that are either unable to fulfill active membership requirements for the Fall semester or wishing to apply for membership for the Spring semester, shall be granted active member status upon the completion of four (4) meetings.

TITLE II – QUORUM

Section 1: A quorum shall consist of 50 + 1% of Youth Rising Up members of active member status.

TITLE III – REPRESENTATION

Section 1: Youth Rising Up shall be represented at the following events

- A. Pep Rallies
- B. Sporting Events
- C. Homecoming Parade
- D. TBD
- E. TBD

Section 2: Youth Rising Up shall also be present at other events agreed upon by the Leadership Team.

Section 3: At least two (2) representatives from the Leadership Team shall be required at all events in which Youth Rising Up be represented.

TITLE IV – LEADERSHIP TEAM TRANSITION

Section 1: Incoming and outgoing Leadership Team members shall hold a transition retreat no later than one (2) weeks before Final Exams. Here is when the outgoing members will train and catch up to speed the new incoming members

Section 2: All Leadership Team/Cabinet Committees shall hold a retreat no later than one (1) after the start of classes for the Fall semester.

TITLE V – TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

- Section 1:** The Leadership Team shall have the power to temporarily suspend certain sections of the Constitution and/or Bylaws provided there is a substantial organizational interest that makes suspension necessary.
- Section 2:** Motions to temporarily suspend a section of the Constitution or Bylaws must be approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the active membership provided a quorum is present and shall be limited to the following sections:
- A. Article V, Section 4 – Election Procedure
 - B. Article V, Section 5 – Candidate Qualifications
 - C. Article V, Section 6 – Officer Installation

TITLE VI – FALL SPECIAL ELECTIONS

- Section 1:** Special elections needed to fill offices vacated over the summer shall be filled in a special election to take place during the first General Assembly meeting of the Fall semester.
- Section 2:** Youth Rising Up members that held active member status throughout the previous Spring semester shall have exclusive voting power in such an election.

TITLE VII – VOTER ELIGIBILITY

- Section 1:** All Youth Rising Up members, of active member status, shall be eligible to cast votes for Election and/or Bylaw matters no sooner than one (1) week after submitting an approved application for membership.