



TPF is seeking Youth Liaisons to its Board of Directors!

Background

The Pokagon Fund ("Fund") is a private foundation that exists to improve the quality of life of residents in the communities of the City of New Buffalo; the Townships of Chikaming, New Buffalo, and Three Oaks; and the Villages of Grand Beach, Michiana, and Three Oaks. The Fund also supports many projects of New Buffalo Area Schools and River Valley School District. The Fund's Board of Directors ("Board") is made up of seven individuals who, collectively, govern the affairs of the foundation. The Fund engages in several philanthropic activities including reviewing, analyzing, and awarding or declining grant requests from nonprofit and government organizations.

The Fund is seeking individuals to serve in the role of Youth Liaison to the Board. Youth Liaisons will provide a new perspective that will clarify and sharpen the focus of the Fund's activities related to youth by asking questions or providing innovative solutions. They will add insight to the Fund's current and future programs, offer new and fresh ways to approach issues, and pass on collective concerns from youth in the community to the Board.

Youth Liaisons act exclusively in an advisory capacity; these are volunteer, unpaid positions. Individuals in these positions do not have voting rights on any matter that comes before the Board.

Expectations

- Attends a portion of, and actively participates in, each regular TPF board meeting. These meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month (except December). This position requires a time commitment of about 3 hours per month.
- During Board meetings in a group setting, provide verbal updates on matters of importance to youth in the Fund's service area and participate in discussions with the members of the Board. Help the individual directors understand the issues facing youth in the service area and discuss possible solutions.
- From time to time, review grant requests that are submitted to the Fund and offer an analysis of the proposal's effect on area youth; offer suggestions on how to improve proposed projects to better meet the needs of youth in the community.

Characteristics of a successful Youth Liaison

- Demonstrated commitment to understanding the needs of youth who reside in the districts of New Buffalo Area Schools and/or River Valley Schools.

- Creative problem solver with the ability to consider different aspects of complex issues.
- Possesses leadership traits such as empathy, encouragement, patience, and maturity.
- Effectively able to communicate and contribute to group discussions that includes participants with diverse viewpoints.

Requirements

- Must be able to prepare for and attend regular board meetings (meetings are hybrid – both in person and virtual options are available for most meetings).
- Must adhere to the policies of the Fund, including its Confidentiality Policy.
- Must have parental/guardian consent to serve in this role if under 18.

Why consider this position?

Individuals interested in applying for a Youth Liaison position with The Pokagon Fund should consider the unique and impactful experience that serving in one of these roles would provide them. It will place them in a position to have a hands-on role in the philanthropic sector, which is a powerful force for good in our community and across the globe. Since 2007, the Fund has awarded nearly \$30,000,000 in grants and scholarships. These awards have supported hundreds of projects to improve communities within the Fund's service area and the quality of life of its residents. These projects have addressed any number of community needs like mental health, placemaking, literacy, arts/culture, outdoor recreation, reducing the effects of poverty, improving education, improving health outcomes, reducing hunger, providing child care, environmental stewardship, and many (many) others. Youth Liaisons will have a front-row seat and voice in some of the programs and activities that the Fund will support in the future. If the prospect of being a part of the legacy and reputation of the Fund intrigues you then please consider this opportunity.

To Apply:

Please submit a letter of interest to The Pokagon Fund that describes your interest in this position and your other community involvement and contributions. Letters can be sent to grants@pokagonfund.org or mailed to 821 E. Buffalo St, New Buffalo, MI. Any questions can be directed to Dan Petersen, TPF Executive Director, at (269) 469-9322. The deadline to apply is October 6, 2023.