



**Leadership  
Sarasota  
County**



**Are You a Middle or High School Student?  
Have You Always Wanted to Start Your Own Business?  
*Join us during our YEA! Information Night:*  
**August 29th, 5:30 PM**  
**Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce**  
**1945 Fruitville Road****

**When young people bring their ideas to us, they really mean business.**

Imagination. Middle and high school students have virtually unlimited amounts of it... and a remarkable aptitude for using it to generate entrepreneurial ideas. YEA! helps middle and high school students take their entrepreneurial skills to a new level in a 7 month academic program that gives students a project-based, hands-on, experiential education. YEA! will meet every Thursday starting in September ending in March. Classes will meet after school at the Suncoast Technical College. Enrollment is limited.

**For more information on YEA! and to download an application visit  
[www.sarasotachamber.com/leadership/YEA](http://www.sarasotachamber.com/leadership/YEA)  
or call Barbara Hines at The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce  
at 941.556.4026**

***Transform Ideas, Create Value, Be Entrepreneurial!***  
***Supported by:***

THE GREATER  
SARASOTA  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



# YEA! STUDENT APPLICATION



Leadership  
Sarasota  
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GULF COAST  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS  
CHARITIES

## LOCAL CONTACT

Barbara Hines, Program Manager  
1945 Fruitville Road  
Sarasota Florida 34236  
Direct line: 941-556-4026

[bhines@sarasotachamber.com](mailto:bhines@sarasotachamber.com)  
FAX: 941-366-5621

# START AS A STUDENT, GRADUATE AS A CEO!

In the Young Entrepreneurs Academy, students have the opportunity to:

1. Come up with a big idea!
2. Pitch to a panel of investors for the opportunity to get real funding for their business!
3. Launch REAL businesses and social movements!
4. Market at the YEA! Tradeshow to create awareness, generate real sales & gain customers!

## PERTINENT DATES

<b>September 2017</b>	Orientation
<b>September 2017</b>	Classes Begin
<b>March 2018</b>	Investor Panel
<b>April 2018</b>	Trade Show Event
<b>May 2018</b>	YEA! Saunders Scholars Event
<b>May 2018</b>	YEA! Graduation

## YEA! STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

### Riley Benner, CEO, Phoenix Haberdashery, Rochester, NY

Riley Benner is a graduate of the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) class of 2014 at the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York. As part of the YEA! class, Riley turned his reversible necktie idea into a high-end men's accessory business—Phoenix Haberdashery. His revolutionary reversible neckties offer two ties for the price of one and allow the wearer a "quick-change" in case of a spill or stain during the day. Phoenix Haberdashery was crowned the 2014 YEA! Saunders Scholars National Competition winner in Washington, D.C., naming Riley as America's Top Young Entrepreneur! [www.phoenixties.com](http://www.phoenixties.com)



### Rachel Zietz, CEO, Gladiator Lacrosse, Boca Raton, FL

Gladiator Lacrosse was founded in 2013 by then 13 year old seventh grade entrepreneur and lacrosse player, Rachel Zietz. Like every player wishing to improve his or her game, Rachel's coaches advised her to play "wall ball" and practice her shot as much as possible. However, the quality of the products she purchased would not hold up to the weather outdoors and were expensive. Participating in the YEA! Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce program, Rachel started a business that produces high-quality lacrosse equipment at an affordable price and Gladiator Lacrosse was born. [www.gladiatorlacrosse.com](http://www.gladiatorlacrosse.com)

### Tanner and Spencer Harrison, Co-CEOs, Campfire Industries, South Jordan, Utah

Tanner and Spencer Harrison, brothers and co-CEOs, graduated from the South Jordan YEA! class in 2013. Their business idea, the Wolf'Em Stick, is a pioneering product of their company, Campfire Industries. The Wolf'Em Stick is a unique tool that creates tasty dough treats over a campfire. The success of the Wolf'Em Stick earned the Harrison brothers 2nd place in the 2013 YEA! Saunders Scholars Competition, including a trip to America's Small Business Summit in Washington, D.C. Tanner and Spencer introduced their product at the South Jordan Country Fest in 2013, and sold 200 units. They were contacted by county mayor, Ed McAdams, who showcased Campfire Industries at the Lake County Fair, where they sold 600 units! [www.wolfem.com](http://www.wolfem.com)



### Brandon Boynton, CEO, MostBeastlyStudios LLC, Madison, Indiana

A 2014 graduate of YEA! Madison County, an incoming senior at Pendleton Heights High School in Indiana, and a member of the Madison County Chamber of Commerce Board, 17-year-old Brandon Boynton was a finalist at the YEA! National Saunders Competition last year. A self-taught iOS app developer prior to YEA!, he officially launched his business, MostBeastlyStudios LLC, and developed his featured app, The BullyBøx, through the YEA! program. Brandon has received numerous accolades in his short career, including a full scholarship to Apple's 2014 World Wide Developers Conference. He was also the winner of the US Congress 5th District STEM Competition and garnered considerable international media recognition. He was recently the youngest person ever nominated for a prestigious TechPoint "Rising Star" Mira Award. Brandon is the owner of The BullyBøx, as well as an assortment of other apps that embody his company's slogan "Apps that make a difference." [www.mostbeastlystudios.com](http://www.mostbeastlystudios.com)

### Kayla Abramowitz, Founder & CKO, Kayla Cares 4 Kids, Palm Beach Gardens, FL

Kayla Abramowitz, 13, of the Northern Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce YEA! class, Palm Beach Gardens, FL, won first place at the 2015 YEA! Saunders Scholars National Competition with her business idea, Kayla Cares 4 Kids, a non-profit organization that collects and donates entertainment and educational items to children's hospitals and Ronald McDonald Houses nationwide. Kayla, Founder & CKO (Chief Kid Officer), came up with the idea after she and her 9-year-old brother Ethan both experienced extended hospital stays due to chronic illnesses. Kayla Cares 4 Kids has already made headway on the mission to help children feel better with deliveries of nearly 6,500 DVDs, electronics & books to 65 children's hospitals and related facilities in 40 states, plus Washington, D.C. [www.kaylacares4kids.org](http://www.kaylacares4kids.org)



## STUDENT CRITERIA

The Young Entrepreneurs Academy is for students in grades 6-12 who have demonstrated creativity, innovative ideas, academic effort, determination, enthusiasm, the ability to communicate, and a commitment to their communities and families. Students who apply to the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) should be responsible individuals who pursue goals with tenacity. Prior experience in business is not required.

### YEA! Academic Year:

The YEA! class meets once a week for three hours after school with the exception of school breaks and holiday recess.

Academic year begins September 21<sup>st</sup> and ends in March. Classes meet every Thursday after school.

### Young Entrepreneurs Academy Tuition:

Tuition includes access to a network of local leaders and business professionals, built-in investment opportunities, field trips, events, books and supplies, and the chance to compete for college scholarships!

### YEA! Academic Year

**\$395**

### Scholarships:

Scholarships are available and will be awarded on the basis of need and merit. For information and an application, please contact your local YEA! Program Manager.

**YEA! STUDENTS** have been awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars in college scholarships as a result of their involvement in the Young Entrepreneurs Academy.

### How to Apply:

1. Complete Part I and II of the application form.
2. Write your essay.
3. Request a copy of your most recent transcripts from your school.
4. Ask a teacher, guidance counselor, employer or community leader to provide a recommendation as indicated in Part IV. Recommendations should be kept confidential and mailed separately to the Young Entrepreneurs Academy.
5. Attend a personal interview with a YEA! Student Selection Committee member.

6. Enclose your **\$10** application fee with your completed application and mail to:

**The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce  
1945 Fruitville Road  
Sarasota, FL 34236**

### Application Deadline, Personal Interviews, and Acceptance Notification:

An application is considered complete when YEA! has received the application form, essay, transcript, application fee, and letter of recommendation.

Student interviews are conducted on a rolling basis.

Class size is limited and the admissions process is competitive.

**Deadline for applications for the 2017-2018 year is SOON!  
DON'T DELAY!! CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED!**

### Cancellation:

Parties will be responsible for any remaining tuition due. Full or partial refunds are not given under any circumstances. Should a student need to cancel their registration, please contact your local YEA! program manager.

### PART I - Student Information

Student Name	Age	DOB
Address	City / State / ZIP	
Student's Email Address	Cell Phone Number	
School	Grade as of September 2017	Graduation Year
Parent / Guardian 1 Name	E-mail Address	
Place of Business	Primary Phone	
Parent / Guardian 2 Name	E-mail Address	
Place of Business	Primary Phone	
Recommender's Name	Recommender's Affiliation	
Recommender's E-mail Address	Recommender's Phone	

