Meet GLSEN’s 2022-2023 National Student Council
GLSEN is the leading national education organization focused on ensuring safe schools for all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.

The National Student Council (NSC) is a GLSEN-sponsored youth leadership and engagement program. It is a paid opportunity open to all youth currently enrolled in high school in the United States. Members of the National Student Council dedicate their time, passion, and commitment to the safer schools mission while also elevating the voices of marginalized groups within the LGBTQ+ community, including (but not limited to) youth of color, disabled youth, immigrant and undocumented youth, youth who are HIV positive, youth in rural communities, and youth who are transgender, non binary, intersex, and/or gender nonconforming.

THE NATIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS:

• **Develop** as leaders, community organizers, and advocates

• **Take action** to make schools safer and more affirming for LGBTQ+ K-12 students

• **Advise** GLSEN programming and campaigns

• **Offer** valuable insight to GLSEN’s staff and Board of Directors

If you’re interested in being a part of the 2023–2024 National Student Council, check glsen.org/nsc in the Spring of 2023 for more info.
Abigail Linderman is a 17 year old genderqueer activist and student residing on Mvskoke land in Birmingham Alabama. They are a senior in High School and an active member of their school’s Law Academy, and GSA. They have also been an active participant in the Alabama YMCA Youth in Government program for the past four years.
AHLANNA JACKSON
(SHE/HER)

AHLANNA IS AN AFRICAN AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR LIVING ON THE LAND OF THE PISCATAWAY PEOPLE ALSO KNOWN AS ACCOKEEK, MARYLAND. AS A SCHOLAR OF HISTORY, SHE IS PASSIONATE ABOUT BRINGING ATTENTION TO THE CURRENT STRUGGLES ENDURED BY HISTORICALLY UNSERVED COMMUNITIES WHICH LED TO HER INTEREST IN LGBTQ+ ACTIVISM. AHLANNA IS AN ACTIVE LEADER IN HER COMMUNITY SERVING AS CLASS PRESIDENT FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS AS WELL AS PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER OF TWO CLUBS THROUGHOUT HER HIGH SCHOOL YEARS. SHE HOPES TO UTILIZE HER SKILLS TO ADVOCATE FOR ISSUES THAT IMPACT PEOPLE ON A NATIONAL AND EVEN GLOBAL LEVEL RATHER THAN JUST IN HER SMALL COMMUNITY. IN HER FREE TIME, SHE ENJOYS DANCING, SEWING, AND WATCHING CARTOONS (SPECIFICALLY SPONGEBOB AND RICK AND MORTY). SHE IS ALSO A YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR WITH AN EMERGING CLOTHING LINE BUSINESS AND INSTAGRAM PAGE THAT SHEDS LIGHT ONTO THE RACIAL DESCIRMINATION YOUNG BLACK ARTISTS AND CREATIVES EXPERIENCE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE INDUSTRIES. AHLANNA IS PLANNING TO PURSUE A DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO CONTINUING HER JOURNEY IN RACIAL JUSTICE AND LGBTQ+ ACTIVISM.
Amanda Acey is a student organizer who lives in Metro Detroit, Michigan. She is very active in her school community and has led the Gender & Sexuality Alliance at her school since 2020. She has been called a “social justice warrior” by some and has learned to love the label. Amanda is Jewish and believes that the pursuit of justice is a core Jewish value. She loves to get involved with her congregation and currently works as an assistant Sunday school teacher.
Anaiya Boutan (She/They/He) is a Black, Queer, 17-year-old activist from Louisiana, now residing in Olhone land also known as Oakland California. Growing up moving around the states they were able to see many different perspectives and walks of life and appreciated the beauty in difference.

They are dedicated to fighting for black liberation, LGBTQIA+ gender equality issues and mental health advocacy. Working with GLSEN they hope to create and cultivate a space where everyone feels represented especially black and brown queer youth. In their free time they enjoy ranting about queer media, reading, and playing their instruments.
Anna is a bisexual cis-woman who occupies the land of the Wahpeton people in Minnesota. She began doing research around LGBTQ+ sex education in high schools this past summer because she noticed the lack that her school had, which is how her activism work began. She interviewed professors, experts in the field, thought leaders, and high school students and teachers. Anna also advocates for rural LGBTQ+ youth and is starting a GSA at her school this year. In her free time she enjoys reading, kayaking, rock climbing, and baking food to sell at her local farmers market.
Ariona Miller is a bisexual, cis woman who occupies Jiwere land, also known as Kansas. She began holding an emphasis on societal justice after embracing her identity within the LGBTQ community and becoming immersed in the Black Lives Matter Movement. Ariona is the Founder and President of her school’s GSA, a student ambassador for the Marshall County Democratic Party, and moderates for local government events.

A big part of Ariona’s journey has been her emancipation. She recently studied at Washington University in St. Louis over the summer and created the first federal financial program for emancipated minors. She is contacting local elected officials about this project and has a YouTube video on her research and the program (titled “EMFAP: Financing Our Vulnerable and Obscure”). Ari is finishing her senior year and hopes to pursue a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science and attend law school. In her free time, she participates in forensics, theater, choir, and dance.
Ava is a mixed queer student who is currently living on stolen Chumash land, also known as Ventura County, California. They are a nonbinary Latine artist who grew up in a very conservative small town in Alaska. Ava is very passionate about creating a safe space for queer and BIPOC youth both locally and in more rural areas like the one they grew up in. Living in California, Ava now sees many more opportunities to help youth like them who may feel trapped in a toxic environment like they once were. Ava has done work with building more inclusive spaces in the Lutheran church and other faith communities. In 2020, during the COVID-19 shelter in place orders, they were active in Queerenteen Camp, which was an online interfaith camp for queer youth across the globe. Ava is also the head of their GSA this year and cannot wait to build something lasting for the students at their school to have right now as well as in the future. In their own time Ava enjoys choir, theater, listening to music, hanging with animals and doing any form of art that brings them...
Ca'Shara is a Cis Lesbian, who occupies the land of the Ute nation. More we’ll know as Denver Colorado. Cashara is a very outgoing extrovert who puts herself in everything and anything she can. From being in clubs from GSA to Finance club to BSA, she’s found a way to put herself out there. She is big on activism within all minority communities and strives to create a more safe space for everyone.
Coral is a queer junior located on the land of the Seminole people, in Florida. She works with her Planned Parenthood charter's leadership action team to engage with her local community. She is also a prospective Peer Educator with Planned Parenthood, where she hopes to promote body literacy among teenagers.

With Planned Parenthood, she advocates for the engagement of young people and the queer community as key components in the movement for liberating reproductive healthcare access. She is passionate about increasing access to education about health and sexuality. Otherwise, she is a choir kid, a singer of classical arias, a lover of memoirs, a portrait artist, and unfortunately for her peers, one who asks uncomfortable questions.
Dayley is a transgender junior living on the land of the Lenape people in New Jersey. Her contribution to youth activism in the media and throughout her community has given way to an interest in policy and education, wanting to improve curriculums around LGBTQ+ individuals in schools nationwide. Dayley is very interested in STEM and computer science. She is currently developing her own web application and would like to pursue a career in software engineering after completing a higher education program. She is also a student pilot and passionate about theater and performing, Dayley is a very enthusiastic individual who loves meeting new people and connecting with others.
Deenie is a 17 year old, Queer student living on the land of the Takelma nation. She’s from a small town in Oregon and is a first-generation Thai immigrant. She has been doing activist work since middle school, but their experiences regarding activism expanded more during her high school years. Deenie is the president of 3 clubs, GSA, the student-run newspaper, and the multicultural club for students of color. They also run a coalition to support LGBTQ+ and BIPOC youth.

Deenie has won the Oregon Safe School Award and the Queer Hero’s awards in relation to her work in their community. She has grown to love her identity being queer and a person of color living in a world and community that dislikes both of those parts of her. They have learned to be confident in herself and use that to help others. Their passion is to give everything she has to help those who need it. She loves art, music, nature, motorcycles and also has an obsession with dinosaurs.
Eris Robinson is a Black nonbinary activist residing on Muscogee/Creek land, also known as Montgomery, Alabama. Their biggest passion is dedicating their life fighting for liberation and accessibility in all areas. They are the president of their high school Gender-Sexuality Alliance and heavily involved with other organizations surrounding Adolescent Reproductive Health. Most of their advocacy involves BIPOC liberation, LGBTQ+ Rights, Sexual Health, and the intersectionality of all three. She hopes to spread their unique voice as a queer Christian advocate and empower young activist to initiate change in their communities. In moments of self care, you’ll find her listening to all of Doja Cat’s albums, collecting fidget toys, or styling the thrifting clothes in their wardrobe.
Hafiza is a queer youth and community organizer occupying the land of the Anishinaabe people also known as Detroit, MI. As a queer South Asian, who is also visibly Muslim, Hafiza has a hard time feeling stuck in between worlds. Between experiences and life changes, she has grown love and passion to fight unjust battles across many marginalized communities she represents.

**Hafiza is a Bangladeshi-American living in Michigan.**

**She is currently a senior and plans to major in political science.**

Between experiences and life changes, she has grown love and passion to fight unjust battles across many marginalized communities she represents. Hafiza has been organizing for the last two years on social justice issues to empower and center young people. She is a rising senior and she enjoys button-making, playing video games, and catching sunsets.
Ishani a senior living on the land of the Tongva people in California. Growing up as a second generation Indian immigrant with a single mom, Ishani has had a growing passion for activism. They advocate for queer youth in their day-to-day life through their organizations, The Prism Initiative. Which works to empower LGBTQ+ youth through sharing their stories and educating people on LGBTQ+ issues. Ishani is also a Co-Director for DAY Prism, which works to empower queer Asian youth. Ishani is also the president of her school’s GSA, Rainbow Coalition, and also apart her school’s Diversity Coalition, which works with the ADL to create a safe school environment for people of all different identities. In her free time, Ishani enjoys crocheting and making jewelry for their small business, Swaggyst0re!
Jaime Lauriano
He/Him
Grade: 11
Phoenix, AZ

Jaime is a Latinx, queer, ambitious, 16-year-old activist located on the land of the Akimel O’odham/Upper Pima people, also known as Phoenix, Arizona. He is passionate about all things social justice and focuses primarily on educational justice and LGBTQ+ rights. Locally, Jaime is president of the Student Alliance For Equality, is a student leader at GLSEN Arizona, and is a volunteer at Equality Arizona.

Jaime is also the founder of STEM4YOUth, which focuses on making STEM education accessible to low-income international and U.S. students. As a STEM enthusiast, Jaime has interned at Georgetown University, studying cutaneous malignant melanoma in different geographical locations, and is a student research intern at ASU. When he isn’t changing the education system or STEM field, Jaime reads tons of LGBTQ+ fiction, dramatically performs in his school’s theater, studies both the STEM and humanities extensively, and plays volleyball (both beach and indoor!).
Kieran is a transmasculine high school senior living in Los Angeles, CA on the land of the Chumash, Tongva, and Fernandeño Tataviam people. Among other things, they are passionate about cementing the rights of LGBTQ students in policy. They are currently working with the UCLA Williams Institute on a report about the experiences of LGBTQ students who drop out or transfer schools, which they hope to use to advise education policy nationwide. Kieran also leads the GSA and student diversity committee at his school. In his free time, he enjoys composing, competing in Classical Jeopardy, and getting overly invested in TV shows.
Kwame is a gay high school junior living in the land of the Anacostan people also known as Maryland.

Living in Kenya for most of his life, he had to hide his queer identity out of fear because there are no laws that protect LGBTQ+ people.

He has since developed a passion for LGBTQ+ rights activism and sexual education for queer students.

Kwame is currently one of the presidents of his GSA, and he is working with other students and faculty to improve conditions for queer students by providing mental health resources. Kwame loves reading, and his favorite book is Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë.
Lily Freeman she/her Identities as a Jewish Female of Trans Experience. Lily is an accomplished advocate, actor, and artist in the Philadelphia area, resting on stolen Lenni Lenape Land. She is also a strong and forceful community advocate for human rights, and speaks at local, regional and national events— including school board meetings, community rallies and panels, in Harrisburg (Pennsylvania’s capital) in front of legislators against anti-trans bills, and on a national panel against censorship. She has been been featured in in multiple publications outlining her advocacy for the equitable treatment of trans youth in schools. And, Lily has also written her own op-ed pieces. Lily is also an accomplished actor and appeared most recently in a co-star role on the new Disney Show “Ultra Violet and Black Scorpion.” Lily loves to do anything that brings out her creativity and most recently taught herself how to crochet.
Mary is a cis-woman lesbian student living in NC on the Catawba people's land. As a first-generation Chinese immigrant, Mary learned how oppression and discrimination impact certain minorities, creating her passion for being an activist fighting for all voices to be heard. With Mary's experience at school facing discrimination regarding her sexuality, she decided to start the GSA of her high school to create a safe space for students regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or race. And as part of her local school board, Mary strives for justice for students and teachers. In her free time, Mary enjoys learning Muay Thai and is trying to pursue her pilot license.
Mia is a highschool senior that lives on stolen Kickapoo land in Missouri. Mia is from a small, conservative town. Because of this, Mia focuses much of her activism on rural human rights advocacy. Rural towns tend to have less resources, less acceptance, and less opportunities. Because of this being queer in a rural town is uniquely difficult. Mia works to reroute LGBTQ+ resources into small towns and further LGBTQ+ acceptance in rural areas.
Olivia Saunders is a lesbian senior occupying Seminole and Calusa land in Naples, Florida. She was the president of her high school’s GSA, where she provided safe spaces for queer students, educated on queer topics, enforced equity policies, and promoted teacher allyship amidst a conservative Floridian culture dismantling legal protections for queer students. She participated in her school’s mock trial team for four years, winning best witness for defense in the county-wide mock trial competition as a junior. She aims to become a lawyer and wield the law to ensure legal equality for queer people as a means of liberation.
Parth Joshi is an Indian immigrant living on Lenni Lenape land or what is today known as Cranbury, New Jersey. As a queer Indian, he is interested in emphasizing intersectionality in identities and issues along with understanding the colonial roots of queerphobia in many Asian communities. They are most interested in activism through policy lobbying/writing and direct actions. Outside of advocating for LGBTQ+ rights, they take an active leadership role in the Junior State of America, GenERAtion Ratify, and New Jersey High School Democrats. Beyond that, he likes to listen to music and binge watch television.
Reagan is a lesbian aroace student located on the land of the Seminole people, also known as Melbourne, Florida. She is a Humanistic Jew and is physically disabled. The Jewish concept of Tikkun Olam is something that is important to them. Reagan wants to advocate for disabled, LGBTQ+ students. She believes access to inclusive, diverse literature is an important right for all students. In their free time, Reagan works as a boba barista. She can often be seen rewatching her favorite anime, going to Disney, reading sapphic books, or playing League of Legends.
Via Lipman, a Jewish lesbian high school senior, currently lives on the land of the Calusa people, known today as Naples, FL. Via is motivated by passions for literature and social justice. Driven by a curiosity into the current state of Florida’s commitment to diversity in schools, she has been working on a two-year research project studying inclusivity and intersectionality in Florida elementary school literature—a project that she is continuing with the goal of journal publication. She is also a youth leader in her local chapter of the GLSEN organization. She recently spoke as a panelist on a webinar from the Anti-Defamation League entitled “A Resurgence of Censorship: Understanding Book Banning in the South”. She also lectured at a 2022 GLSEN conference with a presentation entitled “Forbidden Queer Lit: A History of LGBTQ+ Fiction”. At her own school, she helps run the human rights and political advocacy group (Prism Club), Banned Book Club, and Psychology Club. Via also is the Diversity, Inclusivity, and Equality Coordinator for her school’s Ambassador program, works as an editor on the school literary magazine, and participates in several honor societies.
Yamalí Rodas is a transgender & Guatemalan immigrant that resides in the stolen land of the Kickapoo people which is currently known as the southside of Chicago. Xe is passionate about cultivating community and creating civic opportunities to empower marginalized people to take action towards liberation. At school, xe is the president of the Association of Latin American Students, Coalition of Immigrants, and a competitive ballroom dance team called Baile Latiné. Outside of school, xe is involved with the Coalition of Advocates for Undocumented Students Education to promote the advancement of immigrant students throughout the district. Xe facilitates sexual education workshops for GSA’s across the district through an internship with Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago. This upcoming school year, xe will be conducting a year-long research project with assistance of a college professor and Chicago Public School representatives to develop a comprehensive recommendation on student voice policy that emphasizes the inclusion of the voices of LGBTQIA+ students, immigrant students, students with disabilities, black, indigenous, and students of colors. In the future, xe hopes to continue with grassroots organizing and pursue a degree in sociology. Yamalí is a true believer of leading with love and collectivizing care. Therefore, in xe’s free time xe binge watches TV with friends and family!