USA New Member Application

USA Member Application: Please submit with your letter of intent.

Contact Information:
Name: Gianna Leippert
Department: Division of Environmental Science
Major: Environmental Health
Class Standing: Freshman
Email: gyleippe@syr.edu

Desired Position: Department Senator

Application Questions (Please include answers in your letter of intent):

The letters of intent will be shared with the campus community. Please answer these questions in a 1 page single-spaced document, but do not limit yourself to just these questions please feel free to expand.

1. What past leadership experiences and qualities most prepare you for a role in USA?
2. What do you see as the role of USA in developing the students experience on our campus as well as the campus community?
3. What two committees would you like to join? Why? (Only applies to Senators)
4. What is one goal you have for your tenure in USA?

Please send this application, as well as a letter of intent, and any questions about the application process to the Director of Association Affairs Howard
Haines: hahaines@syr.edu

11 Bray Hall • 1 Forestry Drive • Syracuse, NY 13210 • usa@esf.edu • www.esf.edu/org/usa
To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to apply for the position of Department Senator for the Division of Environmental Science, which consists of the Environmental Science and Environmental Health majors. In the past, I have worked with my peers in environmentally-focused community service. My responsibilities included educating, instructing, supervising, and assisting middle- and high-school aged students in activities such as sustainable farming, invasive plant species removal, and wildlife monitoring. I took great enjoyment in helping students learn about their environment and improving it. I was a member of this program for two years before becoming a staff member that helped to coordinate and instruct the activities. In participating in this program, I gained experience in leadership and organization.

I first began studying at ESF in Fall 2019, where I entered my freshman year studying Environmental Health. I quickly found that ESF was the perfect place for me. The students, staff and the small-college environment made me feel welcome. However, I found that many other students felt overwhelmed, or that they were not cut out for the college’s expectations, most notably academically. While they may have loved ESF as much as I did, the workload was a major source of self-doubt for them. In USA, I would like to make greater efforts to increase student self-esteem.

For this reason, one of my chosen committees is the Academic Affairs Committee. I would like to have a place in improving the academic environment for students who feel overburdened by their workload in order to improve both their mental health and academic performance. By mitigating the issues associated with academic stress here at ESF, I can further improve the positive environment around me.

Another stressor for many ESF students stemmed from the multiple bias incidents at SU. Specifically, many minority students felt targeted by the events, even feeling unsafe at times. As a result of these events and the impact on students I observed, I have chosen my second committee to be Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. I want to help to promote a welcoming atmosphere for minority students and help them to feel safe at ESF and the areas around it. I hope that by having a part in this committee, I will be able to achieve this.

The primary goal I have set for myself as a possible member of USA is to advance positivity in the ESF environment. I am hoping to realize this goal through participation in the aforementioned committees I have selected. I perceive USA as a group that seeks to organize and improve multiple aspects of the campus and community, and that serves as a voice for undergraduate students to make necessary changes to their university. I would be honored to take part in this association because I would like to see this college improve further. I am hopeful that my possible position in USA will help students succeed and feel safe and welcome in the future.

Sincerely,

Gianna Leippert