

To Whom it May Concern,

Hello, my name is Nicole Schepis and I'm a Freshman in Environmental Studies. As a first-year student I would love the opportunity to become active in my school's community and run for the position of First-Year Class Chair.

In high school, I participated in various clubs and gained a lot of leadership skills from them that would help me prepare for the role in USA. Two clubs that are memorable for me was being the Vice President of my senior year's Class Council and being a publicist for my school's Student Council. Running things like the homecoming parade, school dances, and other school events gave me organizational and life skills that can become helpful with planning events and other programs. Also, through the clubs I was involved in, I got the opportunity to attend some student conferences like the New York State Council on Leadership and Student Activities (NYSCLSA) in Niagara Falls last November and the Long Island Teen Institute (LITI) on Shelter Island multiple times. From these experiences I gained teamwork and leadership skills that would be necessary while working in group settings. I believe that all these experiences would prepare me for a role in the Undergraduate Student Association.

The role of USA, in my eyes, is to bring the campus community together. Communication between the students and the faculty is key to making a functioning campus and USA does just that. By making the students feel represented and heard by the staff makes problem solving around campus easier. Also, by USA making the experience of attending ESF exciting and welcoming, it encourages students, faculty, and the outside community to be mindful and engaged in what's going on on campus. Having activities like the farmers market entertains the student body and makes going to school a better experience.

One goal I have for my tenure in USA is to get the freshmen class more involved and make sure the first-years feels represented in their new community. I know for a lot of my peers starting college was a huge change in their life and I want to make their first year at college the best it could possibly be. Another thing is that I know it can be hard to make friends and put yourself out there so I want to make it more welcoming by planning some fun events everyone could take part in. I'm willing to put in the effort and have the drive to execute the things that are needed to make it a great year.

Overall, I'd love to be given the opportunity to run for First-Year Class Chair. I enjoyed my time in high school clubs and I'm very excited to continue to be a part of a school club that works to better the community. Thank you for your time!

Nicole Schepis