



Young Jains of America

Federation of Jain Associations in North America

A Non-Profit Tax-Exempt Religious Organization. IRS Code Section 501(c)(3) EI #54-1280028

elections@yja.org | www.yja.org

Application for YJA Executive Board

Position: Director of Education

Name:

Email:

City, State:

Phone Number:

Date of Birth, Age:

Instructions

- Applications are due **Tuesday, July 15th at 11:59 PM PST**.
 - Complete this application, incl. the associated work product - help us get to know you!
 - Check your eligibility for the position at yja.org/elections.
 - You can apply to more than one position. For a list of positions and their descriptions, see yja.org/elections.
- Submit **all parts** of your application by using the *Submit Application* button at yja.org/elections:
 - Written application (Word Document), file name "NAME – Director of Education Application"
 - Resume (PDF), file name "NAME – Resume".
 - If you do not currently have a resume, please email elections@yja.org for instructions on what to submit instead!
 - Work product - please see instructions in the application.

Next Steps

- If selected for an interview, we'll contact you by **email** to schedule it anytime between when you submit your application and July 28th. Please respond promptly! Interviews may take place on a rolling basis, so we HIGHLY encourage you to submit as soon as your application is completed!
- If you have **any** questions or concerns along the way, please don't hesitate to email us at elections@yja.org. Have fun and good luck - we can't wait to hear from you!

All the information in this application is true to the best of my knowledge. If I am offered a position on the YJA Executive Board and accept it, I will fulfill the duties of that position to the best of my ability!

Signature (sign or type your name)

Date



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Application

Please keep all responses within 100 to 200 words, unless otherwise noted.

1. Why is promoting Jain education important to you? What is your short-term and long-term vision for your year as Director of Education? (No more than 200 to 300 words)
2. Based on the position description and roles & responsibilities, what makes you most suited for the role of Director of Education? What are some of your strengths and weaknesses, and how would you apply them to this role?
3. What is your background with Jainism, Jain communities, or Jain-related activities? (No more than 200 to 300 words)
4. YJA's community (ages 14-29 across North America) is large and diverse. What are some specific ideas you have to reach and engage YJA members of different ages, interests, and levels of familiarity with Jainism?
5. YJA has several ongoing virtual education efforts—like [YJA Pathshala](#), [Jainism 101](#), [Paryushan activities](#), and [Younger Minds](#) content—that live on our website and social platforms. What trends or impact do you see from these efforts? How would you expand or evolve the online offerings in new ways? Separately, how would you use in-person platforms to further YJA's mission of promoting Jain heritage and religion among youth? (No more than 300 words)
6. What do you see as gaps or major areas of improvement with respect to YJA's educational programming and initiatives? Think of a new project, campaign, or initiative that you would want to implement or launch as Director of Education that could address one of the gaps. Give an overview of the initiative, the goal it accomplishes or the need it would fill, how it would be marketed, and any other relevant details.
7. The roles and responsibilities of Director of Education involve significant design work, graphic making, video editing, and content creation. Describe any prior experience in these areas. How would you use social media and content creation to promote and spread YJA education and Jain education initiatives?
8. Working on several projects at once is an integral part of being the Director of Education. As such, managing and motivating a large committee are incredibly important aspects of the role. How would you leverage your committee, and how would you keep members engaged while making sure they meet your goals and deadlines?
9. YJA Talks is a newly launched in-person education initiative where community members share Jain concepts they personally resonate with and create a space for insightful dialogue on Jain

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values and philosophy. As Director of Education, how would you grow and expand this initiative during your term? What's your vision for YJA Talks five years from now—and how would you lay the groundwork for that future starting this year?

10. Please list your other commitments for the 2025-2026 year.

Work Product

Please complete both Task A and Task B

Background

The Director of Education helps incorporate Jain philosophy, practices, and principles into all aspects of what YJA does. This applies to in-person events, as well as ongoing social media and online channels. Some YJA members come to retreats, others use Instagram and Snapchat, and others read email newsletters – the Director of Education is responsible for creating educational content that is accessible to all members, regardless of their educational background on Jainism.

Task A

One way that we provide educational resources to our members is through [YJA Pathshala](#). The goal of YJA Pathshala is to provide Jain youth who lack access to a traditional Pathshala and non-Jains interested in learning about Jainism with self-guided online lessons on different Jain topics, ranging from philosophy to history to rituals and more.

Traditionally, YJA Pathshala modules include learning tools like articles, videos, quizlet sets etc. In the past few years, however, the methods and means through which youth learn best have evolved. Thus, we are looking for your take on a modern-day Pathshala offering.

In this task, you will develop an outline for an innovative YJA Pathshala lesson. Please be sure to include/answer the following on no more than one page:

- Which topic would you choose to focus on? Why is this topic important and/or relevant to highlight?
- Describe how you would structure the module. What component(s) will you include in your module and why? How will the content in each component vary?
- How would you plan to reach and engage with the YJA community, as well as other members of the project's target audience?

You do not need to stick to the format and structure of the present-day YJA Pathshala modules. Be creative and think outside the box!

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Task B

Choose a significant Jain philosophical tenet, concept, or theory that you believe needs greater visibility among Jain youth today or is highly relevant to Jain youth today (be as specific and unique as possible). Using photos or graphics, create a maximum of 3 Story posts (for use on Instagram) explaining this principle of Jainism across. Insert these Story posts as images into your Word document, and be sure to also include a brief caption that explains why/how you crafted your stories. Creativity is encouraged! You are being assessed on your ability to convey complex Jain concepts in a digestible way, and on your content creation skills.

Submit your lesson/video outline (Task A) and images (Task B) in one file (Word) and name the file "NAME - Education Work Product".

If you have any questions, difficulties, or confusion, **please don't hesitate** to email us at elections@yja.org! We're happy to help!

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Position Description

The primary duties of the Director of Education shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Initiating new projects and carrying out existing ones to increase Jain education within the membership by:
 - a. Developing and releasing content, such as videos, handouts, articles, publications, podcasts, and web modules, for the Organization's primary education platforms, such as YJA Pathshala;
 - b. Crafting educational posts, graphics, and media for various social media platforms, and writing newsletter segments surrounding Jain education;
 - c. Organizing educational webinars, Jaaps, events, and online sessions, such as YJA Swadhyay group;
 - d. Organizing in-person educational events, such as the YJA Talks series;
 - e. Enlisting writers, reviewing materials, and writing articles for education-related segments of the Organization's community platforms and those of other Jain organizations (YJUK, Jain Digest, etc.), in conjunction with the Director of Community Relations; and
 - f. Compiling other online Jain resources.
2. Highlighting Tithis and major Jain holidays, such as Mahavir Janma Kalyanak, Paryushan, Das Lakshan, and Navpad Oli, by:
 - a. Updating the YJA Jain Panchang (Google calendar) for major Jain holidays, Tithis, and Kalyanaks;
 - b. Providing education (information, resources, ways to observe, etc.) related to each holiday; and
 - c. Crafting social media posts and newsletter segments to feature upcoming holidays.
3. Helping Regional Coordinators develop educational sessions for events and retreats, reviewing relevant material to make sure it is accurate and suggesting areas for improvement;
4. Recognizing gaps and challenges in connecting youth to Jainism, and ideating on possible solutions (novel initiatives, campaigns, resources, events, etc.);
5. Communicating with outside parties and organizations relating to Jain education by working closely with the JAINA Director of Education, Sanghs, Pathshala teachers, interfaith organizations, youth groups, and other parties;
6. Heading up all educational aspects of the Organization's projects and utilizing a Committee as needed to support these projects;
7. Fulfilling their individual obligations as set forth in the YJA Operating Manual.

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Eligibility Requirements

1. Minimum age requirements:
 - a. Are a minimum of eighteen (18) years of age (as of July 31, 2025); OR
 - b. Are a minimum of sixteen (16) years of age (as of July 31, 2025) and have either:
 - i. Served as a recognized Local Representative, Subcommittee, Project Team, or Convention Committee member with a letter of recommendation from a current Executive Board member; OR
 - ii. Submit, with their application, a letter of recommendation from a member of the executive committee from their local Jain center.
2. Maximum age requirements:
 - a. Are not 30 years of age until after September 15, 2026.

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FAQ and Tips

Q: Can I apply for more than one position?

A: Yes, you can apply for more than one position! You must submit a separate application for each position you are interested in. During your interview, we may ask you for your order of preference among the positions you applied for.

Q: What if I've never been involved with YJA? What if I've never been to pathshala? What if I come from a small town where we have no Jain temple, or no Jain center?

A: There is no "required" background with Jainism to be on the Executive Board. It doesn't matter if you're from a big city or a small town, if you've been to every convention or if you just started learning more about Jainism this past year - we're looking for enthusiastic, hard-working people who are excited about helping connect Jain youth across the country, period. If that's you, apply!

Q: What if I don't live near a Jain community, sangh or temple?

A: No problem! Board members have lived all over the country - sometimes even working from abroad! - without any issue. It is important to us to have the perspective of Jain youth in all different situations, including those who do not have easy access to a Jain community.

Q: What if I've never held a position like this before?

A: Again, there is no "required" set of experiences to be a good fit for the Executive Board - our current board has graduate students, working professionals from various industries, college, and even high school students! We want to hear about the skills and interests you have, but there are also many that we can teach you! When thinking about what you want to apply for, look for the position description that is a good fit with both your background and your interests.

Q: What is a work product?

A: The work product is an example of something that the Board member holding that position does as a part of their day-to-day YJA responsibilities. Seeing a work product helps us better understand your working style, and what you might create or do if you were in that position on the YJA Board. Work products will be looked at in the context of your application and background, so again, don't worry if you've never done something like this before! Just follow the instructions and do your best.

Q: Why are you asking for a resume?

A: We've found that involvement with Jainism is not the only thing that helps us as Executive Board members - we all use skills and experiences from school, internships, and work, as well! Seeing your resume gives us a quick look into this background. No need to modify, just send us your existing resume as-is. Again, if you are in high school or college and don't have one yet, email us at elections@yja.org! This will not negatively affect your application.

Q: Should I talk about my activities or work experience extensively in my application?

A: No need to rehash your resume in your application - use examples as appropriate, but make sure you're actually answering the questions and helping us learn more about you!

Q: Any other tips for application writing?

A: Stick to the word limits - less is more! Proofread your application - typos, grammar and spelling mistakes all make it more difficult to understand what you're trying to convey.

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Q: What does the time commitment for the Executive Board look like?

A: Time commitment varies by position. Roles like Co-Chairs, Director of Events, Director of Operations, and Director of Project Development tend to be more time-intensive and usually take around 8–10 hours per week, though this can fluctuate depending on the time of year. Regional Coordinators and other Directors typically spend 4–6 hours per week, with busier periods around retreats, major events, and releases. If you have specific questions about time commitments, feel free to reach out to elections@yja.org.

Q: I've seen that Executive Board members travel for in-person meetings. What does this entail and are there costs involved?

A: Board members typically travel at least 3 times per year. The exact timing and location of these meetings will be determined by the acting Executive Board. These gatherings are focused on planning, brainstorming, and executing the Board's goals, initiatives, and overall vision for the term. Board members are expected to cover a portion of their travel expenses, and the remainder will be subsidized by YJA. If this is a concern, your Executive Board Co-Chairs will work with you to make accommodations.

Q: YJA Conventions take place in the summer of every even year (e.g. July 2026, July 2028, etc) — what does that mean for me as an Executive Board member?

A: During a Convention year, Executive Board members also serve on the Convention Committee in addition to their usual board responsibilities. You'll take on a role that contributes to planning and executing the largest Jain youth gathering in the world! This is an exciting and rewarding part of your term, but it also means additional responsibilities and collaboration. Further details about the Convention Committee can be found at <https://convention.yja.org/board>.

Q: Who do I contact with questions?

A: For any questions about eligibility, the application process, interviews, or timeline—reach out to the Elections Committee at elections@yja.org.

Q: What will the interview process be like?

A: If you are selected for an interview, you will be scheduled for a Zoom video interview ranging from 30 minutes to 1 hour. The interview will be transcribed and recorded for review as your application is evaluated. All recordings and transcripts will be deleted post-election cycle.

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