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# **Sammamish Youth Group (SYG)**



## Vision Statement

Guiding young minds to the spirit of Islam through positive cultivation and enlightenment.

## Mission Statement

Guiding Muslim youth to become responsible members of society and leaders who are guided by the teachings of Islam.

## Organization Structure

### Interim Director

Fahad Ahmad

### Secretary

Moumin Gani

### Outreach Coordinator

Walid Mouss

### Brother's Outreach

Omar Luqman

### Sister's Outreach

Zina Helal

## Organization Goals

SYG will be dedicated for youth, and managed by youth. Unlike other youth groups, SYG management structure is made up by its youth members who themselves develop and carry out initiatives, with adult advisors taking on a minimal role to mentor and guide them along the way. SYG is a judgement free group, we are here to provide a safe space for Muslim youth.

## Membership Requirements

The board seats are limited to a total of seven (7) members including the director.

To allow for a more cohesiveness relationship between SYG and the youth community:

- A member must be a resident of Sammamish/Issaquah area unless a special consideration is given by all the board members.
  
- Board members should also be from the age group of eighteen to late twenties.

## SYG Meetings

SYG Board will meet regularly on Sunday evenings (or when unanimously agreed upon) to discuss the agendas of the week, month and quarter. Meetings can be conducted online or in a place of choosing of the Board members.

## Finance

SYG is dependent on its financing from the Sammamish Board and will request funds based on events or need via SYG Board/Secretary. SYG Board/Secretary will arrange and discuss the request via written form to the Sammamish Treasurer. SYG Board/Secretary will be in charge of maintaining a financial record of all its transactions.

## Communication

- ❑ Communication between SYG Board will be conducted via email list and WhatsApp groups or different platforms of the group's choosing.
- ❑ Communication between SYG Board and the youth in our community will be conducted via email list, sammamish website and facebook. Although SYG is autonomous of the board, SYG will inform and notify of any events or programs to the board prior (1 week minimum) to the actual date allowing for enough time for the board to review and discuss if a need arises.
- ❑ Current lists:
  - [sygboard@sammamishmosque.com](mailto:sygboard@sammamishmosque.com)
  - [sygyouth@sammamishmosque.com](mailto:sygyouth@sammamishmosque.com)
  - [sygbrothers@sammamishmosque.com](mailto:sygbrothers@sammamishmosque.com)
  - [sygsisters@sammamishmosque.com](mailto:sygsisters@sammamishmosque.com)

## Current Issues

Currently there is no platform for handling and engaging our youth at Sammamish Mosque. SYG will be tasked with filling that gap by creating youth focused programs and activities. The goal of the programs and activities are broken down in four main objectives:

- Building Islamic character.
- Mentorship in social and Islamic responsibilities.
- Sense of community and belonging.
- Entertainment.

## Implementation

Taking into consideration of the experiences of SYG leaders and other community members, we have decided to engage the youth in our community in multiple phases and multiple age groups. Our programs are gender neutral, maintaining the guidelines of Islam and Sunnah.

## Primary Focus

Our primary focus will be on:

- 12 to 18 years of age.

## Phase I

Phase 1 will be focused on building the foundation of the group through weekly, monthly and quarterly programs. These programs will be age and gender neutral, they will also intertwine with volunteer programs listed at the bottom.

- ❑ *Weekly programs:* Youth Khutbah (*currently in place but needs to be revised, its delivery and objectives need to be reviewed.*)
- ❑ *Monthly programs:* This consists of some type of gathering with food (BBQ, Pizza) a small talk (10 - 15 min) and volunteer events, preferably on weekends.
- ❑ *Quarterly programs:* These are bigger events that will revolve around the holidays, they will include basketball clinics/camps, field trips. They also include some type of food arrangements and talk.

## Volunteer Programs

- ❑ Feeding the homeless.
- ❑ Organizing food and clothing drives.
- ❑ Cleaning services (streets, parks, trails).

## Phase II

Phase 2 will be implemented after we are successful in building the Phase 1 foundation. Its primary goal is to follow the vision statement in helping the Muslim youth become leaders inside and outside the Mosque. Initially this role will be filled by volunteers but later on it will transition into a full time staffed position.

## Mentorship programs

The mentorship program will provide several services to our youth.

- ❑ Confidential resource for our youth to utilize when dealing with private religious or social issues via professional individuals involved with the subject matter.
- ❑ Age specific talks about dealing with issues (drugs, dating, and family) via professional individuals involved with the subject matter.
- ❑ Career guidance programs and talks, helping our youth discover the multiple fields and opportunities they might be interested in and guiding them to the right direction of their desired field. Having subject matter experts to give talks and provide guidance for our youth.

## Open Forums

Age specific open forums will deal with a variety of issues, allowing our youth to create and engage in discussion of their choice but lead by a Youth leader or organizer.

## Biography



## **Interim Director**

Fahad Ahmad

Originally from Los Angeles, California, moved to the Issaquah / Sammamish area about three years ago. I have extensive leadership experience in the professional world, leading several startups and managing various projects. On a community level I have helped lead and organize youth programs at the Islamic Center of Hawthorne, CA for several years. As someone who has grown up in America and calls it home, I am passionate about helping our youth navigate through the challenges faced in their day to day lives. Helping them grow and maintain balance as a Muslim and as a successful member of society.

## **Secretary/Treasurer**

Moumin Gani

Moumin is a freshman at the University of Washington (Seattle) pursuing a degree in Political Science. His background with his high school International Baccalaureate program has taught him to manage his time and apply his skills where needed.

Moumin has been volunteering and working with MAPS Youth for the past five years. Moumin's experience with MAPS Youth has made him enthusiastic about bringing everything he has learned about leadership and teamwork to the table with the Sammamish Youth Group. His previous internships with CAIR-WA and current Intern-Lead role with UW's Middle Eastern Student Commission (MESOC) have brought him experience with project-planning, outreach, and communications.

Outside of his university life, Moumin works with a multitude of Adobe Creative Cloud programs, writes stories, and sketches graphic novels.

## **Outreach Coordinator**

Walid Mouss

Walid Mouss is an 18 year old current Running Start student at Bellevue College. He was motivated to assist the youth group was driven by his passion in helping others and giving back to his community. Walid has experience with leadership roles, from school clubs to holding positions as a team player in internships.



Additionally, Walid has and is currently working multiple part time jobs. With jobs ranging from tutoring college students to a, from his work he has learned the value of work ethic. Outside of work, he loves to snowboard, especially teaching it, play basketball & soccer, working out, and volunteer his time through school activities.

### **Sister's Outreach**

Zina Helal

I am 18 years old and currently a student at Tesla STEM High School. My experience in community service and leadership makes me passionate to connect with the youth at Sammamish Mosque. I've had the wonderful opportunity to have previously mentored a girls youth group for two years at Sammamish Mosque. In addition, I've served the international district of Seattle as an intern with a community-service oriented architecture firm. These experiences greatly shaped my love for connecting with others, built my teamwork ethics and strengthened my leadership skills. I currently spend my time outside of school mentoring middle school girls in STEM related academics, tutoring elementary children at an after school education center and enjoying laughs with my family and friends. Some of my favorite hobbies include photographing nature and kayaking.

### **Brother's Outreach**

Omar Luqman

I am currently a senior at Seattle University studying finance and economics. I look forward to providing a positive learning experience for the Muslim youth in Sammamish. I have held multiple leadership roles in various extracurricular clubs and am equally as eager to work in a team setting. As a Muslim of mixed race, I hope to bring a unique perspective to the Sammamish youth in discussing various topics.



Outside of college, I work in banking and enjoy hiking and watching and playing soccer. I also enjoy traveling and trying food from other cultures.