

Staff



Governor Scott Walker, *President*

Governor Scott Walker was raised with a heart for public service, patriotism, and hard work. He moved to the small town of Delavan, Wisconsin, when he was in third grade. There, his father was a minister and his mother worked part time as a bookkeeper and secretary. Scott was active in school, sports, church, Scouts, and American Legion's Badger Boys State and Boys Nation programs.

In June 1993, Scott was elected to the state assembly, where he helped lead the way on welfare reform, public safety, and educational opportunities. In 2002, he was elected to the Milwaukee County executive office. In this position, Scott worked to reform the scandal-ridden county government and faithfully kept his promise to spend taxpayer money as if it were his own.

In 2008, he won re-election with nearly 60 percent of the vote. On November 2, 2010, Scott was elected the 45th Governor of Wisconsin. Inheriting a \$3.6 billion budget deficit, \$800 million worth of unpaid bills, and an eight percent unemployment rate, he immediately implemented reforms to renew economic revival, fiscal order, and government accountability in Wisconsin.

Scott became the only governor in American history to survive a recall election on June 5, 2012. He was re-elected in 2014 and sworn into a second term on January 5, 2015.

Scott is currently President of Young America's Foundation.

He serves on the boards of Students for Life Action, American Federation for Children, and the Center for State-led National Debt Solutions.

Scott and his wife, Tonette, have two adult sons.



Patrick X. Coyle, Vice President

Patrick Coyle is the vice president for Young America's Foundation. *Human Events* named Mr. Coyle as one of the top ten young conservative activists in the nation, citing his success in reaching hundreds of thousands of students by sending high profile conservative speakers to college campuses. He is also co-editor with Foundation president Ron Robinson of *The Conservative Guide to Campus Activism* and wrote the *Campus Conservative Battleplan*, both of which are published by Young America's Foundation. His success has made him a target of a radical leftist website that has published his home address and

phone number in an attempt to stop his conservative activism.

Mr. Coyle is also responsible for overseeing student programs including creating and implementing new activist initiatives, resources, and materials. A few of the programs created under his tenure include the 9/11: Never Forget Project, No More Che Day, and Freedom Week.

Mr. Coyle is a graduate of Penn State University, where he first became active in the Conservative Movement by joining the Penn State Young Americans for Freedom (PS-YAF) of which he eventually became chairman. During his years with PS-YAF, he battled against the liberal orthodoxy. He also worked with the Foundation to bring numerous speakers to his campus, including Walter Williams, G. Gordon Liddy, and MTV VJ, Kennedy.



Jolie Ballantyne, Director of Conferences

Jolie is a 2015 graduate of the Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law where she received her J.D.

While attending Penn State, Jolie was active in promoting conservative values on campus. She was chair of the Penn State YAF chapter and worked with the school's other conservative clubs to successfully host a number of Young America's Foundation speakers.

In fall of 2014, Jolie and Penn State YAF worked to bring attention to the school's egregious free speech policy. The campus, which covers more than 8,000 acres, only allows student groups to exercise their First Amendment rights in 12 small areas. Jolie and other students were kicked out of a "free speech" zone for drawing attention to this policy while passing out copies of the U.S. Constitution.

Prior to law school, Jolie attended Central Washington University. While at Central, Jolie worked tirelessly to fight the school's liberal bias as the president of the conservative club on campus. She graduated in 2012 with a B.A. in political science and a B.A. in law and justice.

Jolie is a member of the Virginia State Bar and the Young Americans for Freedom Board of Governors. Jolie fosters Great Danes for a local rescue group and is a CrossFit addict.



Spencer Brown, *Spokesman*

Originally from Minnesota, Spencer first became involved in government and the Conservative Movement in high school, when he worked for a number of conservative causes. He spent his senior year interning in the district office of Congresswoman Michele Bachmann.

After high school, Spencer moved to Virginia Beach, Virginia, where he studied government and strategic communication at Regent University. As Spencer looked to continue his involvement within the Conservative Movement, he founded the

Young Americans for Freedom chapter on campus in 2012.

Spencer joined the headquarters team at Young America's Foundation in 2015 as digital director, working to expand the reach of YAF's conferences, campus lectures, and resources to students around the country, before becoming spokesman in 2017.

As part of his work to amplify the impact of Young America's Foundation and the accomplishments of Young Americans for Freedom activists, Spencer routinely travels to colleges and universities to handle contentious situations that arise out of the Foundation's campus lecture program and the work of bold YAF students around the country.



Kyle Ferrebee, *Executive Director of Young Americans for Freedom*

Kyle directly oversees the development of Young America's Foundation's chapter affiliate, Young Americans for Freedom. He works with hundreds of chapters on high schools and colleges campuses nationwide to help chapters advance conservative principles.

Kyle's YAF chapter at Wingate University received national attention when university officials decided to pull funding for the conservative organization's lecture featuring author Nonie Darwsh.

After Black Lives Matter protests turned into deadly anti-police riots in the neighboring city of Charlotte, Kyle and his YAF chapter quickly organized a "Back the Blue" campaign to combat the growing anti-police sentiment at Wingate. Hundreds of students joined alongside Wingate University YAF in support of local law enforcement officers.

Kyle also organized the 9/11: Never Forget Project, Socialism Awareness Week, Freedom Week, and No More Che Day among many other projects.

Previously, Kyle served as a 2016 William and Berniece Grewcock Intern Scholar at YAF's national headquarters, and in the Heritage Foundation's Center for International Trade and Economics as part of their Young Leaders Program.



Madison Habersetzer, *Program Officer at the Reagan Ranch*

As program officer at the Reagan Ranch, Madison is responsible for outreach to students on the West Coast. She helps equip students with the resources and skills they need to effectively defend conservative values on campus.

Madison is originally from Washington State and went to school at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington. In 2019, she graduated *summa cum laude* with a double major in history and secondary education.

While at Whitworth, she served as the chair of her campus' chapter of Young Americans for Freedom, during which time she organized a discussion panel about gun control and legislation featuring both liberal and conservative professors and the county sheriff, pioneered the 9/11: Never Forget Project and a 9/11 memorial service, and hosted *New York Times* best-selling author Jason Mattera. All of these events were very successful, well attended, and sparked conversations about conservative ideas on campus. Additionally, Mattera's lecture earned her chapter recognition as YAF's "Chapter of the Month" for December 2018.

Madison is passionate about conservatism and preserving Ronald Reagan's ideals and values and relishes the incredible opportunity to share the Reagan Ranch with students and YAF supporters.



Jaime Hahn, *Program Assistant*

Jaime Hahn serves as a program assistant for Young America's Foundation.

Jaime graduated from Kennesaw State University in 2020 with a degree in organizational and professional communication.

After co-founding the Young Americans for Freedom chapter at her school in 2017, Jaime attended her first YAF conference. Since then, her chapter has hosted Katie Pavlich, Rachel Campos-Duffy, and Michael Knowles. Additionally, her chapter organized YAF's 9/11: Never Forget Project, No More Che Day, and Freedom Week.

In 2018, Jaime's YAF chapter filed a lawsuit against the university's blatantly unconstitutional student organization policies. The Chancellor of the University System of Georgia required a full investigation into the school's policy and faculty, and YAF KSU achieved a legal victory.



Breana Marsh, *Program Officer for Student Services*

Breana Marsh is a recent graduate from Grand Canyon University, completing her studies with a degree in Finance and Economics.

She became involved with Young America's Foundation her senior year at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona.

During her time at GCU, Breana served as a board member of her Young Americans for Freedom chapter (GCU YAF).

GCU YAF hosted numerous speakers through Young America's Foundation, including Andrew Klavan, Michael Knowles, and Allie Stuckey. The chapter also participated in activism initiatives, including YAF's 9/11: Never Forget project, Freedom Week, and Pro-Life Week.

While serving on the board of GCU YAF, Breana worked to help bring Ben Shapiro to speak at GCU after the administration refused to host him.

She is excited to help inspire students across the nation to be bold advocates for freedom.



Kevin McMahon, *Program Officer for Digital Media*

Kevin McMahon is a recent graduate from the University of Virginia, completing his studies with a double major in economics and government. Kevin became involved with Young America's Foundation early in his undergraduate career, primarily focusing on reviving the Young Americans for Freedom chapter at UVA. After a fight against the university administration, UVA YAF was granted official recognition by the university.

Kevin and the reinstated Young Americans for Freedom chapter at UVA took on a host of new activism initiatives. The chapter now participates annually in the 9/11: Never Forget Project, Freedom Week, and No Che Day, along with hosting several high-profile conservative speakers throughout the years, such as Kate Obenshain, Stephen Moore, and former Governor of Virginia George Allen.

During his undergraduate career, Kevin interned on Capitol Hill in the office of Congressman Keith Rothfus during the Summer of 2017. Kevin spent the Summer of 2018 as a William & Berniece Grewcock Intern Scholar in Reston, Virginia at Young America's Foundation. After graduating from the University of Virginia, Kevin returned to Young America's Foundation as the program officer for digital media.



Kara Zupkus, *Assistant Editor of The New Guard*

Kara Zupkus currently serves as the assistant editor of *The New Guard*, exposing stories of campus bias and discrimination against conservative students through YAF’s Campus Bias Tip Line.

Kara graduated from The George Washington University with a B.A. in political science and a minor in journalism & mass communications.

Kara became involved with Young America’s Foundation her freshman year at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. She served on the chapter’s executive board for four years and successfully hosted Ben Shapiro at a standing-room-only lecture amid controversy while serving as GW YAF co-president her senior year.

The chapter also hosted Sen. Rick Santorum, Steve Forbes, Marc Thiessen, Sen. Rand Paul, Deroy Murdock, Christina Hoff Sommers, and Bay Buchanan in addition to the 9/11: Never Forget Project, Freedom Week, and Cemetery of the Innocents activism events.

During her time at GW, Kara interned through YAF’s National Journalism Center and was placed at NBC News’s Washington Bureau. Kara also worked at the Washington Examiner and American Action Forum before joining YAF’s national headquarters staff.

In 2020, Kara was profiled in *Newsweek* as a “Young, Diverse Conservative Star Progressives Need to Fear.”