



2026–2027 SYTA COMMITTEES, SUBCOMMITTEES, TASK FORCES & COMMUNITIES

Draft Updated: September 2026

THE PREMIER PROFESSIONAL TRADE ASSOCIATION THAT PROMOTES STUDENT AND YOUTH TRAVEL WORLDWIDE.

Vision: To help students and youth gain a greater understanding of the world through the experience of travel.

Mission: SYTA is the premier association of businesses dedicated to providing life-enhancing travel experiences to students and young people. We instill confidence in our travelers by establishing quality and safety standards for travel providers, and we empower our members through advocacy, education, training, and networking opportunities.

SYTA's Committees, Subcommittees, Task Forces, and Communities are the heart of our volunteer network. These groups bring members together to share ideas, lead initiatives, and strengthen the student and youth travel industry. Whether you're new to SYTA or a long-time member, there's a place for you to get involved, grow your leadership experience, and make an impact.

Each volunteer group is supported by a Chair, a Board Liaison, and a Staff Liaison. Most terms are one to two years, and volunteers are encouraged to stay engaged through mentorship and participation across committees.

GOALS OF COMMITTEES

All SYTA committees work toward these shared goals:

- Leadership – Guide important conversations that shape student travel.
- Knowledge – Develop tools and resources for members and partners.
- Education – Provide learning opportunities for members and industry professionals.
- Networking – Build meaningful connections with others who share your passion for student travel.

SYTA STANDING COMMITTEES

Standing Committees are appointed annually by the SYTA President with approval from the Board of Directors. These groups provide essential oversight and governance for the association.

Finance Committee

Chaired by the Treasurer, this committee provides input into SYTA's annual budget, monitors financial performance, and oversees reviews investment performance to SYTA's investment policy. It ensures SYTA remains financially strong and transparent.

Audit Committee

Led by the Vice President, the Audit Committee manages SYTA's annual audit and ensures compliance with financial and governance standards. This committee provides accountability and transparency for members.

Nominating Committee

Chaired by the Immediate Past President, this committee develops the slate of candidates for SYTA's Board of Directors. The committee ensures a balanced and diverse leadership team that reflects SYTA's values and membership.

Governance Committee

Chaired by the Secretary, this group reviews SYTA's bylaws and policies, keeping them current and aligned with Board intent. Members should have a good understanding of governance practices and Robert's Rules of Order. The committee may also review SYTA's Consumer and Member Complaint Policy as needed.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Advisory Committees focus on programs, events, and initiatives that directly benefit SYTA members. Members bring creativity and energy to shape the programs that define the SYTA experience.

Annual Conference Committee

This committee helps plan and enhance SYTA's Annual Conference experience. Volunteers provide feedback and support for education, hospitality, new attendees, and onsite engagement. Annual Conference committee members are expected to attend the conference.

Subcommittees may include:

- Hospitality & Volunteer – Coordinate volunteer opportunities and onsite support.
- Education – Select and advise on educational sessions and webinars.
- New Attendee/First Timer – Welcome new attendees and organize networking activities.

Summit Committee

The Summit Committee provides insight and guidance to ensure the SYTA Summit delivers valuable networking and learning opportunities for members and sponsors. Summit committee members are expected to attend or be a Summit sponsor.

Health & Safety Committee

This committee promotes a culture of safety and readiness across SYTA. It develops best practices, standards, and resources for crisis preparedness, health, and safety in student travel.

Goals and Objectives

- Create a culture of health and safety planning and readiness among SYTA Members
- Establish minimum standards of health and safety preparedness and protocols for SYTA members
- Be the definitive resource for crisis, health and safety preparedness information for members
- Establish a sense of safety and confidence among our stakeholders including but not limited to our customers and travelers
- Serve as advisors to the certification (CSTO/CSTP) programs

Membership Development Committee

Focused on recruitment and retention, this committee helps SYTA grow its community. Members welcome new members, assist with renewals, support orientations, and review resources that strengthen engagement.

Goals and Objectives:

- Committee members make welcome calls to each new member
- Committee members assist SYTA staff with member renewal reach-outs
- Monitor member satisfaction through annual survey results
- Develop and assist New Member Orientation webinars
- Conduct an annual review of New Member Packets and communications
- Create/Review Mentor Resources, as applicable
- Align Conference/Summit Committee's goals & objectives for New Members

Communications Committee

This team helps shape SYTA's messaging and communications strategy. Members advise on industry issues, advocacy, and crisis communication to ensure SYTA's voice is unified and effective.

Goals and Objectives:

- Marketing Toolkit annual review and recommendations for new resources
- Review SYTA membership survey for key communications and messaging to members and external stakeholders
- Administers the Globies Awards Program

International Committee

The International Committee promotes SYTA's global growth and represents international perspectives in association leadership. It works to expand membership and advocates for international student travel issues.

Goals and Objectives:

- Provide leadership to grow SYTA's international membership and expand the association's influence globally.
- Advocate for SYTA and its members issues at the local, national and international level as it impacts international travel.
- Committee members may represent SYTA at industry tradeshow and events.

COMMUNITIES

SYTA Communities bring together members who share common interests or challenges. These groups foster collaboration, knowledge sharing, and new ideas that strengthen our industry.

Responsible Travel Committee

This community explores sustainability and DEIA under the umbrella of responsible tourism. Members share best practices, align with global initiatives, and help integrate responsible tourism into SYTA's programming and member operations.

Sustainability

Provides guidance and shares best practices to help members integrate sustainability into their operations, policies, and SYTA programs. It aims to align with other tourism organizations to promote a united approach to sustainable travel. Open to both SYTA members and nonmembers, the group welcomes all levels of participation based on interest and expertise. The community includes a Chair, Vice Chair, Board Liaison, and at least five volunteers.

DEIA

The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility (DEIA) community promotes inclusive practices across SYTA and member organizations. Members exchange ideas, share resources, and collaborate on educational programming that supports diverse representation in student travel.

Canadian Tour Operators Community (online)

A space for Canadian tour operators to connect, share insights, and discuss issues unique to their region. There is no term limit for this community.

Tour Operators Community (online)

Provides a forum for active tour operator members to collaborate, share best practices, and stay connected throughout the year. There is no term limit for this community.

SYTA Family Enterprise Community

This group supports members involved in family-run businesses. Discussions focus on family dynamics, succession planning, and strategies to promote the value of family enterprises within the travel industry. There is no term limit for this community.