



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY COUNCIL 2026

The goal of the YPAC is to engage the next generation of conservationists and to build awareness of Houston Audubon's mission among young professionals. YPAC members have the chance to make a significant impact in the world of bird conservation through outreach and engagement and unique volunteer opportunities in support of our mission.

The inaugural Young Professionals Advisory Council kicked off in 2019 during Houston Audubon's 50th anniversary year with 17 dedicated members. This group of passionate young conservationists launched the first ever Houston Bird Week and successfully ran a contest to determine the official Bird of Houston – the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. Since then, the YPAC has been organizing Bird Week every year. They have also had the opportunity to assist with various community projects such as park restoration, assisting with education programming, community engagement efforts, hands-on conservation, and more!

About Houston Audubon

Houston Audubon, founded in 1969, is a nonprofit charitable conservation organization committed to enhancing life on the Upper Texas Coast for birds and people. It is dedicated to advancing the conservation of birds and positively impacting their environments through habitat conservation, environmental education, and conservation advocacy. Houston Audubon owns and manages 17 bird sanctuaries totaling over 4,100 acres.

Term

The time commitment for this membership is 12 months, consisting of 5 in-person meetings, virtual subcommittee meetings, and any additional socials or desired volunteer time with Houston Audubon.

The ideal candidate is:

- Between 25 and 40 years old and active in the professional and/or academic community
- Eager to make an impact in the world of conservation
- Committed to volunteering their time and abilities to support Houston Audubon
- A clear communicator that follows through with commitments
- Positive, respectful and inclusive

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Attend 5 general meetings in person, held within a 10 mile radius of downtown Houston
- Current Houston Audubon membership required (starting at \$40)
- Active participation in one of the following areas:
 - Fundraising events (Birdathon, Avian Affair)
 - Birdathon is Houston Audubon's spring fundraiser where participants compete to identify the most bird species in 24 hours while fundraising for their team. YPAC members are encouraged to participate, whether by forming a team and competing, helping to fundraise, or encouraging people to participate. Learn more at www.houstonaudubon.org/birdathon

- Avian Affair is Houston Audubon's fundraising dinner held every October. Participating in this event could look like helping secure auction items, supporting the event financially, or volunteering on the day of. Learn more at www.houstonaudubon.org/avianaffair
- Houston Bird Week (planning, execution)
 - Houston Bird Week is a celebration of the important role Houston plays in the journey of billions of migratory birds and the everyday lives of our resident birds. Our inaugural YPAC started Bird Week in 2019 and it has since grown each year. Houston Audubon and local conservation partners arrange a week of virtual and in-person events centered around our region's birds and wildlife – from birding opportunities and watch parties to trivia, movie night, and more, there's something for all Houstonians to enjoy. YPAC members are responsible for the planning and execution of Bird Week under the guidance of the lead staff representative. Learn more at www.houstonaudubon.org/birdweek
- YP social opportunities & engagement
 - There will be opportunities throughout the year to participate in group socials and outings in addition to YP events held for the community that YPAC will plan, host and promote.
- Serve as an enthusiastic and professional advocate for Houston Audubon's mission
- Other optional opportunities include participation in outreach programming and HA committees

Benefits

- The opportunity to collaborate and socialize with like-minded young professionals
- Build leadership skills and personal development
- The chance to give back to your community and make a positive impact on the natural environment
- Exclusive volunteer opportunities and events
- Bimonthly socials with other young professionals in the Houston area

Commitment

2026 Meeting Dates (in-person attendance required)

- January 21 – HA Board, staff, YPAC Mix & Mingle (tentative date)
- February 5
- April 2
- June 4
- August 6
- October 1
- December – holiday social date TBD
- Optional socials to be scheduled between meetings

Time: 6 – 7:30 pm

Location: Within 10 mile radius of downtown Houston