 **Name of applicant:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Last First Middle**

**2025-2026 Simpson Youth Academy Recommendation Form**

**Please type responses**

**To the recommender**: The student named above is being considered for admission to the Simpson Youth Academy at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, composed of a nine-day summer residential experience and a year of mentoring and reflection, starting in summer 2026. This program will encourage mature and curious teenagers to prepare for college, develop leadership skills, and explore spirituality and public service. The intense nature of the summer Residency portion requires emotional maturity and a well-integrated personality. Please make your comments both candid and substantive. If you have questions about the program, please contact the director, Eric Rucker, at eric.rucker@simpson.edu or 515.961.1406.

**Please do not return this completed form to the applicant. Please email the completed form – as a Word document or PDF – directly to program director Eric Rucker at eric.rucker@simpson.edu.** We appreciate your assistance!

1. Is the applicant a current high school sophomore, junior, or senior?

2. How long and under what circumstances have you known the applicant?

3. If possible, describe the applicant’s involvement in their church, school, or community, paying particular attention to their interest in religious, spiritual, or social issues, and the maturity of their spiritual development.

4. Please comment on the applicant’s intelligence and intellectual abilities, including creativity, curiosity, independence of thought, ability to follow through on responsibilities, and ability to explore and communicate ideas within a context of diversity.

5. SYA requires participants to engage diverse groups of peers in challenging conversations about complex topics while living away from their traditional support systems for nine days. Do you believe that, at this time, this student has the capacity to engage in this manner? If accepted, are there particular ways we can support this student’s growth?

6. Can you give us any information about the applicant, their family and home life, or other information that might help us know them better?

7. What makes this applicant unique?

Other comments?

Recommender’s name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_City:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State:\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip:\_\_\_\_\_\_

Occupation:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_