

# North NJ DSA Executive Committee Candidate Questionnaire - January 2021

Please use this form to submit your candidacy for one of the positions on our executive committee.

For full descriptions of all executive committee positions, please view our by-laws:

<https://north.dsanj.org/chapter-by-laws/>

Full Name \*

Jorge Mauricio Maldonado

Position you are running for \*

YDSA Coordinator (must be 25 years old or younger) ▼

Why are you a member of DSA? \*

I am a member of the DSA because I believe that working people deserve to have power over their own lives. In order to win the kinds of transformative demands that can empower the multi-racial working class, we need to build organizations that train working people to become organizers, provide political education, and generate the leverage for us to win. I see that DSA as not only being capable of accomplishing this, but also serving as a incubator of militant working class activity in all spheres of life-- politically, through the community, within one's home, and in the work place.

What will you bring to this Executive Committee position? \*

I will bring my experience of building organization. YDSA provides a unique opportunity to steer young, working class students to not only organize in their campuses, but provide political direction and training on how to become life-long organizers. I want to draw on my own experiences labor organizing, but also more relevantly/recently, my experiences chairing the local DSA chapter. my experience has challenged me in several ways. chairing a chapter of over 1000 members has meant figuring out how to simultaneously support ongoing work/projects, training new and existing members, and using my position to build structures that collectively enhance our work. both feelings of success in areas where I felt I positively contributed to our chapter and when I felt I made mistakes has allowed me to reflect on how to improve going forward.

What is your vision for North NJ DSA and how will you work to achieve it? \*

I think I answered part of this above already, but my vision for North NJ DSA is one where our organization is recognized and trusted by working people. I want working people from the community to have confidence in the dsa that it can be a source of training, guidance, and organization that will win demands that affect them and their families. to get to this place, our org needs to have victories that are deeply and widely felt, and structures that are welcoming and engaging for members to feel like they can grow their capacity to lead.

If you could change one thing about our chapter, what would you change? \*

I would like to increase the amount of resources we can provide members to not only situate themselves within the chapter, but provide guidance on how they can quickly contribute to our campaigns, as well as train their own skills as leaders that can produce even more leaders. I don't mean that this something we're not doing, but I think is something that can always be improved that yields incredibly potential and extends capacity considerably.

Is there anything else you'd like to share with fellow chapter members? \*

I thank everyone for an incredible year, but I will continue to look to everyone guidance in the new year for us to win socialism! si se puede!

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