AOA Youth Committee Agenda
February 9, 2026

Committee Members:	Alan Siktberg ✔	Nancy Chapel
	Dena Drago (Secretary)	Laurel Shouvlin
	Staci Forshee	Dianna Timmerman
	Stephanie Glyptis ✔	Bonnie Kittrell (Chair) ✔
	Cadence Rearden ✔	Betsy Vantilborg ✔
Staff Liaison:	Claryssa Sladek ✔	
Board Liaison:	Gina Glasscock	
Meeting:	Virtual Committee Meeting Monday, February 9, 2026 8:00 PM Eastern Time/5:00 PM Pacific Time/7:00 Central	

1.0 Call to Order / Opening Remarks **Bonnie**

1.1 The committee agreed to skip the March meeting due to travel conflicts (National Show). The next meeting will resume in April.
1.2 Schedule Change: Starting in April, the meeting time will move to 8:00 p.m. EST on a trial basis to better accommodate member schedules.

2.0 Strategic Vision & Youth Outreach

2.1 Youth Programming Survey: Currently drafted on Google Docs. The committee decided to table the survey for one month to allow for further internal feedback before potentially sending it to a test group of 500 AOA members.
2.2 AOA Website "Youth Corner": Claryssa Sladek proposed a complete revamp of the youth portion of the website to serve as a centralized hub for educational resources, including showmanship videos.

3.0 Funding & Grant Support

3.1 NAF Grants: Discussion focused on the lack of affiliate awareness regarding National Alpaca Foundation (NAF) grants.
3.2 Action: Bonnie Kittrell will share a simplified question-and-answer template to help affiliates navigate the application process.

3.3 Educational Component: The committee is researching specific requirements (potentially one hour of instruction) needed to qualify for the grant.
3.4 Youth Impact Fund: The group will begin developing marketing materials (brochures/rack cards) to guide families toward youth membership and grant access.

4.0 Educational Initiatives & Show Modeling

4.1 Seminar Models: Stephanie highlighted a successful one-hour Zoom seminar for the Pacific Northwest Alpaca Association. The committee discussed replicating this model to demystify the show ring for new breeders.
4.2 Youth Invitational Model: Alan Siktberg and Bonnie Kittrell are working to develop a simplified show model for affiliates based on Angie Grove's successful Pennsylvania Invitational.

5.0 Addressing Barriers for Mentor Farms

5.1 Logistics & Costs: The committee identified high leasing costs and animal transportation as major hurdles for 4-H participation.
5.2 Performance Obstacles: There is a lack of accessible information regarding obstacle dimensions.
5.3 Suggestion: Use ALSA rules for dimensions and encourage "Obstacle Building Days" to involve families and reduce costs.

6.0 Summary & Adjournment **Bonnie**

Next meeting date **April 13, 2026**