



2016-2017 Membership Application

(For New Members Only)

City of Wichita Mayor's Youth Council

City Hall | 455 North Main Street | 13th Floor
 Wichita, Kansas 67202
 (316) 303-8051 | WichitaMYC@gmail.com
<http://www.Wichita.gov/Government/MYC>

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Mayor's Youth Council Membership Criteria and Application

Deadline for Applying: March 18, 2016 at 4:00pm



What is the Mayor's Youth Council?

More than a quarter of Wichita's population is made up of people younger than 18 – the legal voting age. Despite being unable to vote, this citizen group is essential to a healthy community and should actively engaged in public affairs and community service.

The Wichita Mayor's Youth Council (MYC) was established in 2007 to provide Wichita youth with the opportunity to weigh in on community issues and learn about City government with the vision that all youth of Wichita would be secure, educated, and connected to the community. MYC provides an outlet for young leaders to discuss and take action on issues that are important to the city's youth. Members have numerous opportunities to develop their personal leadership skills through community service and engagement activities, to educate and advocate for youth in community matters, and to represent their peers in the development and adoption of public policy at the local, state, and national levels.

Want to Join Us?

You can apply to join the Mayor's Youth Council if the list below describes you!

- You are currently in grades 8-11.
- You live in the City of Wichita.
- You have a grade point average of at least 2.5.
- You have a passion for serving your community.
- You want to learn about city government and be a leader among Wichita youth.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the Mayor's Youth Council or this application, please contact:

Kimberly Harris, MYC Coordinator, (316) 303-8051, WichitaMYC@gmail.com

How to Apply

1. Complete (please print or type) and sign this application.
2. Obtain your parent's or legal guardian's signature, giving you permission to participate in MYC.
3. Attach two letters of recommendation (see page 5 for details).
4. Attach your transcript or another official verification of your *cumulative* grade point average.
5. Submit your application by **March 18, 2016 at 4:00pm** using one of the following methods:
 - a. Mail or deliver the application to:

Mayor's Youth Council
c/o City Manager's Office
City Hall, 455 N. Main St., 13th Floor
Wichita, KS 67202

- b. Email a signed copy of the application to WichitaMYC@gmail.com.
 - In the subject line, please type, “[First Name] [Last Name] – MYC Application.”
Example: John Doe – MYC Application
 - Send only PDFs or Word documents, no image files or pictures of the application.

Selection Criteria

Selections will be made based on the following criteria:

- The student's interest in serving on the Mayor's Youth Council (MYC). Participation includes attending one MYC regular meeting and one MYC committee meeting each month, along with other meetings and events as they arise.
- The student's history of active community involvement, volunteerism, a desire to serve others, and public service.
- The student's interest in potentially pursuing a college education and career in public service.
- The student's desire to develop his/her leadership potential.
- The student's history of academic achievement.
- Feedback from the student's references.
- An interview with the selection committee.

Personal Information

Name: _____ Age: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Current GPA: _____

School: _____

Grade Level for the **2016-2017** School Year: *Freshman* | *Sophomore* | *Junior* | *Senior*

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

If you indicated that you reside in a city other than Wichita, KS, will you live within, or attend school in the corporate limits of the City of Wichita during the **2016-2017** school year? *Yes* | *No*

If no, we are sorry, but you are not eligible to apply to the Mayor's Youth Council at this time.

The responses to the following questions will be used to gauge the diversity of the applicant pool:

Race/ethnicity: _____ Gender: _____

Name of Your School District: _____

Number of Your City Council District (1-6): _____

If unsure, visit <http://gismaps.wichita.gov/publicsite>, click the blue "I Want To..." button, select Go to Address, enter your address, and select Search. Then, return to the "I Want To..." tab and click More Maps. Scroll to the Districts tab, select it, and check the Council Districts button. Your address should now be in a colored area with the district number and council member's name. That's your district! Contact us if you need help.

Essay Responses

Please respond to the following questions as thoroughly as possible. Responses may be provided on additional pages, if needed.

1) Why are you interested in public service? Public service includes things like learning about city government, speaking up on issues you care about, and helping your community.

2) Why are you a good candidate for the Mayor's Youth Council?

3) What activities are you involved in at school and in the community?

4) Which experiences have prepared you to be a successful member of the Mayor’s Youth Council?

5) Have you previously served on the Mayor’s Youth Council? *Yes* | *No*

If yes, what school years did you participate? _____

If yes, list any previous MYC positions held and the year(s) you held them.

6) **Meeting Availability:** Council meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month from 6:30-8:00pm. Committee meetings usually occur on either the 4th Monday or Tuesday from 6:30-7:30pm.

I am available to attend meetings at those times.

I am not available to attend meetings at those times.

7) **Short Essay:** Provide an essay that explains what you believe to be the most important issue(s) facing Wichita’s youth and how, as a member of the Mayor’s Youth Council, you would work with area youth, local government, and local nonprofit agencies to address this issue. The essay should be a maximum of two pages and double-spaced. Attach the essay to this application.

8) **Recommendation Letters:** Include two letters of recommendation from adults you have worked with in school or non-school activities (e.g. teacher, counselor, coach, supervisor, etc.). Ask the letter writers to include their name, phone number, and email address in the letters.

Statement of Commitment

I understand the time commitment required for the Mayor’s Youth Council and that my attendance and active participation is essential to making the Mayor’s Youth Council the best student-led organization in Wichita. **I also understand that if I have more than 3 unexcused absences, I must meet with the executive committee members to discuss my absences, commitment to the Mayor’s Youth Council, and future attendance at MYC events.** Lastly, I understand the importance of teamwork and cooperation, and I will be committed to this council and to my fellow council members.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian’s Signature

As the parent/guardian of _____,

I give consent for my child to participate on the Mayor’s Youth Council and all related activities.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____