



LEGISLATIVE YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

APPLY NOW FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMPACT STATE POLICY AFFECTING LOUISIANA'S YOUTH

There is a place for young people to make a difference in state government by serving as a member of the Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council, a body composed entirely of high school students with the purpose of addressing issues affecting the youth of Louisiana. The Louisiana Commission on Civic Education is now accepting applications for membership on the youth council.

The purpose of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council is to facilitate the communication between youth and the legislature and give students an opportunity to be involved in the workings of government. Students who are selected to serve will have the opportunity to study and address issues of importance to youth, including education, employment, strategies to increase youth participation in local and state government, substance abuse, underage drinking, physical fitness and health, litter and environmental control, and others. The Louisiana Commission on Civic Education oversees the work of the youth council and participates in the appointment of the council membership.

Twenty-one youth members are appointed each year, which includes two student members representing each of the congressional districts and additional at-large members. Alternate members are also appointed. Youth members must be between the ages of 14 and 19, and be enrolled in a public or private high school, a home school program, or a GED skills program for the 2014-2015 school year.

Application deadline: Must be postmarked or submitted online no later than March 15, 2014.

To Apply for Membership:	
1.	PART I, STUDENT APPLICATION (required): Fill out the student application form completely OR fill out the online form.
2.	PART II, PARENTAL CONSENT FORM (required): Parent or legal guardian must sign and submit a consent form for a student applicant to be considered.
3.	PART III, RECOMMENDATION FORM & LETTERS: The recommendation form must be given to a school administrator, teacher, or representative of a community or school-sponsored club or organization (with a civic mission) to complete and submit a letter of recommendation. A maximum of two letters of recommendation may be submitted.
4.	SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION: A. For Paper Application, Letters of Recommendation, & Consent Form Mail to: La. Commission on Civic Education c/o Louisiana Senate Post Office Box 94183 Baton Rouge, LA 70804 B. Online Application Form: If a student completes an online application form, then the required parental consent form & letters of recommendation must be mailed to the above address. Application forms may be accessed and submitted online at http://civiced.louisiana.gov . All other required forms are contained in the PDF application.
5.	For more information, call (225) 342-2425.

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PART I. STUDENT APPLICATION

IMPORTANT: Parts I through III must be completed and forwarded to the *Louisiana Commission on Civic Education, c/o Louisiana Senate, Post Office Box 94183, Baton Rouge, LA 70804*. All personal identifiable information contained in this application is confidential.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Student Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

and/or Cell Phone (optional): _____ Parent E-Mail: _____

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

I attend (check the appropriate box): Public/Private High School Home School GED Skills Program

School: _____

School Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Grade Level in High School (for 2014-2015 school year): Check one: 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th

In which Congressional District is your school located? _____ (You may find the congressional district by accessing www.legis.la.gov. On the home page, under the "Who Are My Legislators" tab, enter the school address to find your district.)

SHORT ESSAY

We would like to learn more about you and why you are interested in representing youth in Louisiana. On a separate page, briefly answer the following questions. All answers should be typewritten, if possible.

1. Why do you want to serve as a member of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council, and, if selected, how will your experience on the youth council affect your goals and life choices on civic involvement?
2. What do you think is the most important issue facing Louisiana youth today? How would you hope to affect this issue using your experience as a LYAC member?
3. To date, what has been your greatest achievement or accomplishment, whether civically, creatively, or academically?
4. If you could meet any Louisiana public figure (past or present), who would he or she be and why?
5. Every effort is made to ensure the council members represent the diverse population of Louisiana. Please describe what viewpoint you can bring to LYAC, what makes it unique, and why it is important that these viewpoints are represented. (For the purposes of this question, "diverse" means a council that offers a strength of multicultural backgrounds, experiences, perspectives, or physical abilities/qualities.)
6. Have you attended any LYAC meeting? If the answer is yes, indicate how many meetings attended.
7. List any skill or talent you have that may contribute to the work of the youth council.
8. List your membership in any school/community clubs, organizations, and activities, including any offices or leadership positions held.

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PART II. PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN CONSENT FORM

The Louisiana Commission on Civic Education actively invites and encourages all high school students in grades 9 through 12, ages 14 to 19, to submit an application for membership on the Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council. If your child is selected, every effort will be made to minimize any burden of council activities on your child's school responsibilities and other personal priorities, including any unnecessary personal financial burden on you and your family. However, you will be responsible for providing transportation to and from any meeting or event of the youth council.

PERMISSION TO SEEK MEMBERSHIP ON THE LEGISLATIVE YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

My child, _____, is interested in becoming a member of the Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council and I support and authorize his/her participation, if selected. I understand that I am responsible for the transportation of my child to and from any youth council meeting or event.

PHOTO RELEASE

I understand that the youth council may attract attention from the media and that my child may be photographed or filmed during any meeting or event. Therefore, I hereby grant permission to use photographs, video recordings, or other electronic or printed communications of my child, if selected. I understand that such photographs, recordings or other communications may be used for public display on the official website of the Commission on Civic Education or in other publications referencing the participation of students as members of the youth council.

RELEASE FROM LIABILITY

I, the undersigned, expressly release the Louisiana Commission on Civic Education, and any of its members and staff, any participating public official, or any other participating agency/organization from any and all claims, which may arise during the term of my child's membership, if he/she is selected.

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date

Optional Section (student):

How did you hear about the Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council?

- Newspaper
- Television
- Legislator or other public official
- Teacher or school administrator
- Club or organization [Which one? _____]
- LYAC Member
- Internet/Website

Other: _____

If your application is not selected, would you still like to be involved and attend the LYAC meetings?

- Yes. Let me know when and where the LYAC meetings will be held.
E-mail address: _____
- Not at this time.