



NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE APPLICATION 2017–2019

The Nevada Youth Legislature (NYL) was created by the Nevada State Legislature during the 2007 Legislative Session. Legislators established the NYL to enable the State's most promising teenagers to learn *about* government by participating *in* government.

The Selection Process

Currently, 21 Youth Legislators are serving two-year terms. On May 31, 2017, the terms of all 21 Youth Legislators will expire. Therefore, all 2017 appointments will be for two-year terms.

Youth Legislators, selected by their State senators, represent between 27,000 and 42,000 youth in their districts. They review and evaluate issues that affect our State's young people. Distinctive to the NYL, these Youth Legislators, as a group, have the statutory authority (*Nevada Revised Statutes* [NRS] 219A.220) to propose one legislative measure during each legislative session. This gives Youth Legislators the ability and opportunity to author a policy that can be passed by the Nevada Legislature and signed into law by the Governor.

Since the 2009 Legislative Session, the NYL has proposed five bills, three of which were passed and signed into law: (1) a measure proposing peer mentoring in schools; (2) requirements addressing core curriculum standards in Nevada public schools; and (3) a measure revising criminal penalties for the consumption or possession of an alcoholic beverage by a person under 21 years of age. Two bills, which Youth Legislators requested senators to sponsor, were also successful: (1) providing certain safety measures on campuses of higher education; and (2) allowing academic credit for certain high school internships.

Applicants must be ninth to eleventh grade students during the first school year in which they will serve in the NYL (which, for this application window, is the 2017–2018 school year). Applicants must also either be residents of OR attend school in the State senatorial district from which they are appointed. A homeschooled applicant must be eligible to attend school in the senatorial district of the senator who would make the appointment.

Activities and Duties

The NYL members will be responsible for performing the following duties:

- Serving as a liaison between the NYL and the youth of Nevada;
- Participating in NYL meetings, hearings, and teleconferences. These meetings typically take place once per month during each school year;
- Completing required outside assignments, as prescribed in statute or by the NYL Foundation Board of Directors. During the two-year term, these include: (1) creating a plan to conduct a town hall meeting and a District Youth Advisory Council (DYAC) meeting; (2) creating a DYAC and holding at least one DYAC meeting; (3) conducting at least one town hall meeting; (4) testifying at least once before a public decision-making body; and (5) submitting a bill draft request (BDR);
- Evaluating, reviewing, and commenting on issues that affect the State's young people;
- Helping the NYL conduct youth-focused awareness and outreach campaigns; and
- Preparing for, selecting, and ultimately testifying on behalf of the NYL's BDR during the 2019 Session of the Nevada State Legislature.

Meetings

The NYL will meet several times during its term, and Youth Legislators will be expected—to the extent possible—to attend every meeting or activity. Youth Legislators will be responsible for arranging their own transportation to the nearest meeting location. Meetings are generally videoconferenced between: Las Vegas and Carson City. If needed, special arrangements can be made to accommodate rural Youth Legislators.

Ordinarily, meetings will involve half-day activities. Typically, meetings and trainings will be scheduled during the school week; therefore, Youth Legislators will likely need to be absent part of the day from school for these meetings.

The NYL will hold two training programs that all Youth Legislators are required to attend. The first training program will be held in Carson City, and the second training program will be held in Las Vegas. The program will cover travel and lodging expenses. The training programs are planned for August 2017 and September 2018.

Attendance

Nevada Youth Legislators must attend all meetings, activities, and event days, as well as complete all outside assignments that are required by the NYL program. Absences that will be excused, when requested prior to an NYL meeting, activity, or event (not applicable to

an outside assignment) are those that involve family or medical emergencies; unanticipated situations; or special, *nonrecurring* activities or events.

Absences will be approved retroactively, when requested following a required NYL meeting, activity, or event (not applicable to a required outside assignment) when the Youth Legislator has experienced a family or medical emergency or unanticipated situation that made attendance impossible.

If a Youth Legislator does not request an excused absence, either prior to or within a week following a required NYL meeting, activity, or event—or, if a request for an excused absence is declined—this will result in one unexcused absence. If a Youth Legislator does not submit a required outside assignment by 5 p.m. on a deadline day, this will result in a one-half unexcused absence.

If a Youth Legislator reaches two unexcused absences during his/her two-year term, NRS requires the release of that Youth Legislator from the NYL program. If this occurs, both the Youth Legislator and the appointing State senator will be notified about the vacancy.

Other Activities

In addition to the meetings and trainings, Youth Legislators are encouraged to continue the NYL's work. A few of the ways they can grow through this experience include:

- Meeting with their Nevada State Senators and Assembly Members, community leaders, and youth peers;
- Researching issues that are relevant to the State's youth;
- Preparing and delivering presentations to various audiences;
- Serving as media resources regarding youth issues; and
- Testifying before public bodies and other entities.

Application Due Date: Applications Must Be Postmarked or Received on or Before March 31, 2017.

We look forward to receiving your application and appreciate your interest in the NYL. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tina Ashdown, Program Facilitator, at (775) 684-6740 or via e-mail at info@youthleg.state.nv.us.

NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE APPLICATION 2017-2019

Personal Information: (Please print clearly)

Full Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Last First M.I.

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home #: _____ Cell #: _____

E-mail: _____ Gender: _____

Parent/Guardian Information:

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____ Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ (Please sign on page 4)

Relationship to Applicant: _____ Same Address as Applicant?: Yes No

(If Different)
Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home #: _____ Cell #: _____

Work #: _____ E-mail: _____

School Information:

School Name: _____ Grade Level **During the 2017-2018 School Year:** _____

School District: _____

Principal's Name: _____

Principal's Signature: _____ (Please sign on page 4)

Please indicate which of these Senate Districts are your 1st and 2nd choices for appointment to the Nevada Youth Legislature:

Senate District of Residence: _____ Choice: _____

Senate District of School: _____ Choice: _____

The "Who's My Legislator" tool can be found at: <http://mapserve1.leg.state.nv.us/whoRU/>.

NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE APPLICATION 2017-2019

Short-Answer Questions:

Please answer each of the following questions. Your answer to each question may not exceed 500 words and must be visible within the boundaries of the essay fields.

1. What does the phrase “fully engaged in the democratic process” mean to you, and how would you fully engage in the democratic process to accomplish specific goals in the Nevada Youth Legislature?

Note: Information that you provide on this application will be used solely for the intended purposes of consideration for appointment to the Nevada Youth Legislature. Your information will not be shared with any other party.

2. Every legislative session, the Nevada Youth Legislature has the ability to propose one piece of legislation to the Nevada Legislature. All 21 Youth Legislators submit a bill proposal as part of the selection process. In your opinion, what is the top issue facing Nevada's youth? How would you address this issue through legislation? What arguments would you make to your colleagues within the Youth Legislature in support of your bill?

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3. Recently, the Nevada Youth Legislature adopted a policy that encourages each member to establish “Youth Advisory Councils” in their districts. These Advisory Councils would expand Youth Legislators’ outreach to the schools within their districts. How would you encourage the youth of your district to participate in the Advisory Council, and how would you maximize its effectiveness?

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Letter of Recommendation:

In addition to your completed application form and short-answer questions, you are required to submit one letter of recommendation from an adult mentor, religious leader, teacher, employer, or other adult familiar with your interest in participating in the democratic process and your leadership abilities. This adult may not be related to you. Please submit your letter of recommendation with your application. When submitting the application electronically, please scan the letter of recommendation and include it with your completed online form.

Name of Reference: _____

Relationship to
Applicant: _____

Home #: _____ Cell #: _____

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NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE APPLICATION 2017-2019

If you plan to submit the application electronically, please print this page, obtain signatures, scan this page, and attach with the form you filled out online.

Signature Page:

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Principal's Signature: _____

Applicant's Pledge:

I, _____, do hereby acknowledge that I understand the responsibilities of serving as a member of the Nevada Youth Legislature. If selected, I agree to carry out these responsibilities to the best of my ability and promise that I will use my position on the Nevada Youth Legislature to protect and serve the youth of Nevada.

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Thank you for your interest in the Nevada Youth Legislature. We look forward to reviewing your application. For more information concerning the NYL, you may visit: <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/NYL/>.

SEND YOUR APPLICATION TO: NYL Coordinator, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, 401 S. Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701. Include on your envelope in bold letters "APPLICATION FOR THE NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE." You may also fax your application to (775) 684-6750 or e-mail it to info@youthleg.nv.us.

ALL CANDIDATES WILL BE NOTIFIED WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE APPOINTED.

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