



GOVERNOR'S YOUTH COMMISSION

OVERVIEW

The Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) is pleased to announce that applications for the 2024-2025 Governor's Youth Commission (GYC) Class are now open. This packet is designed to provide applicants with a clear understanding of the application process, answer some frequently asked questions, and provide more background on the GYC. Please take the time to read through this informational packet in advance of applying to serve on the Commission.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

The GYC is one of the nine councils and commissions housed within the GOYFF. The GOYFF is a cabinet-level agency that administers state and federal grant programs and engages stakeholders across all sectors throughout the state to improve services and service delivery to our citizens. Through a trauma-informed lens, GOYFF develops programs, coalitions, strategies, and initiatives to support Governor Katie Hobbs' priorities related to workforce development, sexual and domestic violence, substance abuse prevention, juvenile justice, aging, and child well-being. The GOYFF also serves as the Governor's faith-based office and administers the state's AmeriCorps program.

The GYC is an advisory body composed of high school students representing all the state counties appointed by the Governor. The mission of the GYC is to promote healthier communities through youth volunteerism and service learning, increasing awareness of the most significant issues affecting their community and encouraging civic participation. This empowers generations of civically engaged and service-oriented leaders to create a brighter future for Arizona and advise the Governor. The contributions of the GYC to the state are part of the more remarkable story of youth empowerment in Arizona and the nation that dates back to the early 1970s. In 1972, Governor Jack Williams established the Traffic Representatives of Arizona's Governor Youth Council (TRAGYC). TRAGYC was tasked with developing countermeasure programs for highway safety and housed within the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. In 1988, Governor Rose Mofford created the Governor's Youth Commission Against Drugs (GYCAD) to involve youth in developing long-term substance abuse prevention plans in their communities throughout the state. Ad housed within the Governor's Office of Drug Policy for much of the 1990s. It was not until the 2000s that GYCAD became known as the Governor's Youth Commission (GYC). Governors and their administrations have adapted the focus areas of the Commission to reflect the needs of the youth and the interests of the Commissioners over time. To learn more about the history and origins of the GYC, please visit [here](#).

Hundreds of students apply to join every year, and only 40-55 are selected to serve as Commissioners. These Commissioners come from diverse backgrounds and embody the best of Arizona's youth. GYC's successes over the years are a testament to Arizona's commitment to empowering young people to make a positive difference in their communities.

As the GYC begins a new chapter, it is mindful of its proud past. It remains committed to its vision of "empowering generations of civically engaged and service-oriented leaders to create a brighter future for Arizona."

APPLICATION PROCESS

The membership of the GYC serves to be representative of the demographic and geographic diversity of Arizona. Commissioners are selected based on their demonstrated commitment to their school and community, and their oral and written ability to communicate through the application process. The application process will include completing an application and an interview round with GOYFF.

Qualifications: Applicants must be students enrolled in an Arizona high school and be in their sophomore, junior, or senior year of school for 2024-2025.

Term: Commissioners serve a one (1) year term but may apply to serve up to three (3) terms with the GYC, so long as they are still in high school and are selected through the renewal application process.

Travel: Mileage reimbursement is available for Commissioners traveling 50 miles or more from outside Maricopa County. Before all reimbursements, the Arizona State University Participant Support Certification and the Arizona State University Substitute W-9 must be filled out, signed, and sent to the GYC Program Administrator. These will be provided to members upon acceptance into the Commission.

Meetings: There will be four (4) Quarterly Commission Meetings throughout the term, which include Orientation. Each Commissioner will be placed into a Workgroup that meets bi-weekly between the Quarterly Commission Meetings.

New Applicants Form:

The application form can be accessed [here](#) or by copying and pasting the form URL to your web browser – <https://forms.gle/FSUXqXSFz1bvhyfE9>. A hard copy that can be mailed is available at [BeSeenBeHeard.AZ.gov](https://www.az.gov). The application form will consist of the following parts:

- **Part 1 – Applicant Information**
- **Part 2 – Orientation Attendance**
- **Part 3 – Resume**
- **Part 4 – Parent/Guardian Information**
- **Part 5 – Short Essays**
 - Personal Statement
 - Leadership Statement
 - Project Planning
- **Part 6 – Letter of Recommendation**
 - One (1) letter of recommendation is required with the application; however, up to two (2) letters may be submitted. The letter can be from a teacher, faculty member, community leader, or youth group leader. Please note that the letter of recommendation must be typed and on official letterhead (if possible).
 - The letter should include:
 - The writer's experience with the applicant;
 - What specific skills/attributes make the applicant a good candidate for GYC.
 - If Recommenders prefer to submit their letter separately, they can do so by emailing their letter to gyc@az.gov. We ask for recommenders to list the applicant's name in the email.
- **Part 7 – Signature Page**

Renewal Application Form:

The application form can be accessed [here](#) or by copying and pasting the form URL to your web browser – <https://forms.gle/8JuTyePyiZihk9sX6>. The application form will consist of the following parts:

- **Part 1 – Applicant Information**
- **Part 2 – Orientation Attendance**
- **Part 3 – Resume**
- **Part 4 – Parent/Guardian Information**
- **Part 5 – Short Essays**
 - Personal Statement
 - Improvement Statement
- **Part 6 – Leadership Roles**
- **Part 7 – Signature Page**

Selection: All applicants will be notified of their application status and whether they have been selected to serve on the GYC in mid-July 2024. If that changes, you will be notified.

Application Timeline.***

- April 01, 2024 – Open New Member and Renewal Applications
- April 30, 2024 – Close Renewal Application
- May 31, 2024 – Close New Member Application
- Mid-May to June – Staff Review Applications
- Mid-June – Executive Board Status Notification
- Mid-July – General Commissioner Status Notification

*** **Notice – Application Timeline:** If the dates change, all applicants will be notified using the emails provided to us by the applicants in their application.

GOVERNOR'S YOUTH COMMISSION- COMMISSIONER RESPONSIBILITIES

Applicants who are selected to join the 2024-2025 GYC Class will be asked to abide by a few guidelines regarding protocol for meetings and conduct in general:

- Your behavior reflects the office and the State of Arizona. The perception of you during public events and in public spaces should reflect the seriousness of the role you have accepted.
- Meetings of the GYC are serious state government functions for which many professionals put a lot of time and energy. The staff who organize the meetings do so on behalf of you and behalf of all the youth of Arizona. Their advice is valuable, and their requests should be taken seriously.
- Perform at least **five (5) service hours monthly** (August through April) and solicit at least two (2) peers to join you in conducting service hours.
- Attend **four (4)** Quarterly Commission meetings a year, arrive on time, and be prepared.
- If a Commissioner fails to communicate their absence and is absent for **two (2)** Quarterly Commission Meetings, the Commissioner will be asked to resign from the Governor's Youth Commission. All Commission absences must be communicated to the GYC Secretary and GYC Vice President.
- If a Commissioner fails to communicate their absence and is absent for **three (3)** Workgroup Meetings, the Commissioner will be asked to resign from the Governor's Youth Commission. All Workgroup absences must be communicated to the Workgroup Secretary and Workgroup Chairperson at least 24 hours in advance.

- Please respect your fellow commission members and commission staff by arriving on time, prepared, and with the flexibility expected of professionals regarding meeting length and proper business attire.
- Adhere to Workgroup deadlines for projects.
- Respect and follow the directives of GOYFF Staff.
- You will be provided with an agenda at each meeting. Keep the focus of the conference on the listed topics.
- Have fun and learn from this valuable opportunity. Your contributions are essential and will be used by state officials to develop policies and activities that will affect every citizen in Arizona.