

NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE APPLICATION 2014-2015



The Nevada Youth Legislature was created by the Nevada State Legislature during the 2007 Legislative Session. Legislators established the Nevada Youth Legislature 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. In June, the terms of four Youth Legislators will expire due to graduation from high school. Therefore, the four vacated seats will be available for 2014 appointment to the remaining one year of a two year term.

The open seats are for District 3 (appointed by Senator Segerblom), District 5 (appointed by Senator Woodhouse), District 13 (appointed by Senator Smith), and District 20 (appointed by Senator Roberson). You must attend school in or reside in one of these four districts to be eligible for appointment. The "Who's My Legislator" tool can be found at <http://bit.ly/WhosMyLegNV>

Youth Legislators, selected by their Nevada State Senators, represent youth in their districts. They review and evaluate state issues that affect our state's young people. Distinctive to the Nevada Youth Legislature, these Youth Legislators, as a group, have the statutory authority to propose one legislative measure during each legislative session. This gives Youth Legislators the ability and opportunity to author policy that can be passed by the Nevada Legislature and signed into law by the Governor.

In 2011 and 2012, the Nevada Youth Legislature held hearings on a variety of topics and ultimately decided to pursue legislation in the 2013 Session that would amend the Nevada Constitution to "lock" the Millennium Scholarship account, prohibiting the use of money deposited into the Millennium Scholarship Trust Fund from being used for any other purpose. During the 2013 Legislative Session, Youth Legislators testified before legislative committees on behalf of this measure, SJR6.

Under normal circumstances, applicants must be 9th to 11th grade students during the first school year in which they will serve on the Nevada Youth Legislature (which, for this application window, is the 2014-2015 school year). However, given these four seats are considered one-year vacancies, rising 12th grade students **are eligible to apply** to fill the remainder of the two-year term. Applicants must also either be residents of the state senatorial district from which they are appointed or in which they attend school. If the applicant is a homeschooled youth, the applicant must be eligible to attend school in the senatorial district of the Senator who would make the appointment. The Secretary of the Senate, in his capacity as Executive Director of the Nevada Youth Legislature, will review and refer applications to State Senators, who will ultimately make the appointments.

Activities and Duties

Nevada Youth Legislature members will be responsible for performing the following duties:

- Serving as a liaison between the Nevada Legislature and the youth of Nevada.
- Participating in Nevada Youth Legislature meetings, hearings, and teleconferences. These meetings typically take place once per month and begin at 2PM on school days.
- Conducting at least one “town hall” meeting with youths in the community each school year of their term.
- Evaluating, reviewing, and commenting on issues that affect the State’s young people.
- Helping the Nevada Youth Legislature conduct youth-focused awareness and outreach campaigns.
- Preparing for, selecting, and ultimately testifying on behalf of, the Nevada Youth Legislature’s bill draft request during the 2015 Session of the Nevada Legislature.

Meetings

The Nevada Youth Legislature 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 among three locations: one in Las Vegas, one in Carson City and one in rural Nevada.

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

The Nevada Youth Legislature will hold a one-day training program that all Youth Legislators are required to attend. This training program will be held in Las Vegas. The program will cover all travels costs associated with Youth Legislators attending from Northern Nevada. The training program is planned for Saturday, September 6th.

Other Activities

In addition to the meetings and trainings, Youth Legislators are encouraged to continue the Nevada Youth Legislature’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 on youth issues.
- Testifying before public bodies and other entities.

Application Due Date: Applications Must Be Postmarked or Received On or Before April 18, 2014.

We look forward to receiving your application and appreciate your interest in the Nevada Youth Legislature. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact David A. Byerman, Secretary of the Senate and Executive Director of the Nevada Youth Legislature Foundation, at (775) 684-1400, or via email at David.Byerman@sen.state.nv.us.

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Personal Information:

Your Full Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: NV Zip Code: _____

Home #: () _____ Cell #: () _____

E-mail: _____

Parent/Guardian Information:

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____ Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____ Same Address as Applicant?: _____

(If Different)
Address: _____

City: _____ State: NV Zip Code: _____

Home #: () _____ Cell #: () _____

Work #: () _____ E-mail: _____

School Information:

School Name: _____ **Grade Level During the 2014-2015 School Year:** _____

School District: _____

Principal's Name: _____

Principal's Signature: _____

Senate District of Residence: _____ Senate District of School: _____

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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.

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Short-Answer Questions:

On a separate sheet of paper, please answer each of the following questions. Your answer to each question may not exceed 500 words.

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?
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? And what arguments would you make to your colleagues within the Youth Legislature in support of your bill?
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. If you chose to establish such an Advisory Council, how would you encourage the youth of your district to participate in it, 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.

Name of Reference: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Home #: () _____ Cell #: () _____

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 Nevada Youth Legislature, you may visit bit.ly/NYL-Info

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED OR RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE APRIL 18, 2014. SEND YOUR APPLICATION TO: DAVID A. BYERMAN, SECRETARY OF THE SENATE, 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) 684-6522.

ALL CANDIDATES WILL BE NOTIFIED WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE APPOINTED. NOTIFICATIONS WILL BE MADE BY MAY 30, 2014.

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