



NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE APPLICATION 2023–2025

The Nevada Youth Legislature (NYL) was created by the Nevada 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, youth legislators serve two-year terms. On May 31, 2023, the terms of all youth legislators will expire. Therefore, all 2023 appointments will be for two-year terms.

Twenty-one youth legislators, selected by their state senators, represent between 26,000 and 46,000 youth in their districts. They serve as a voice for the youth in their districts and constantly 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 eight legislative measures, six of which were passed and signed into law: (1) a measure proposing peer mentoring programs in schools; (2) requirements addressing curriculum standards in Nevada public schools; (3) a measure revising criminal penalties for the consumption or possession of an alcoholic beverage by a person under 21 years of age; (4) a bill requiring a study to determine the manner in which to include certain instruction relating to criminal law in the social studies curriculum for public high schools; (5) a measure prohibiting the use in a criminal case of certain defenses based on the sexual orientation or gender identity or expression of the victim; and (6) a measure requiring implicit bias and cultural competency training for juvenile justice workers. Six legislative measures, which youth legislators requested legislators to sponsor, were also successful: (1) providing certain safety measures on campuses of higher education; (2) allowing academic credit for certain high school internships; (3) creating the Silver State Opportunity Grant; (4) establishing an economics/financial literacy curriculum requirement in public schools; (5) revising provisions relating to the mental health of pupils; and (6) revising requirements for the operation of a motor vehicle by a young driver.

Applicants must be ninth to eleventh grade students during the first school year in which they will serve in the NYL. This application applies to School Year 2023–2024. Applicants must also either be residents of OR attend school in the state senatorial district from which they are appointed. A homeschooled or virtual school applicant must be a resident of OR eligible to attend school in the senatorial district of the senator who would make the appointment.

ACTIVITIES AND DUTIES

Each NYL member will be responsible for performing the following duties:

- Serving as a liaison between the NYL and the youth of their senate district;
- Participating in NYL meetings, trainings, and teleconferences. These meetings/trainings typically occur once per month during each school year;
- Completing required outside assignments, as prescribed in statute or by the Board of Directors for Corporation for Public Benefit to Administer the NYL. During the two-year term, these assignments include: (1) preparing key questions and answers for messaging opportunities; (2) creating a plan to conduct a town hall meeting; (3) conducting at least one town hall meeting; (4) testifying at least once before a public decision-making body; (5) submitting a bill draft request [BDR]; and (6) writing and sending an outreach recruitment letter.
- 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 advocating for the NYL’s BDR during the 2025 Session of the Nevada Legislature.

MEETINGS AND TRAININGS

The NYL meets several times during its term, and youth legislators are required to attend every meeting/training and activity. During these trainings, youth legislators learn essential skills, such as: listening, message accountability, negotiations, and presentations. Youth legislators are responsible for arranging their own transportation to the nearest meeting location. Meetings/trainings are generally videoconferenced between Las Vegas and Carson City. If needed, special arrangements can be made to accommodate rural youth legislators.

Ordinarily, meetings/trainings involve half-day activities. Typically, meetings/trainings are held during the school week. Therefore, youth legislators must prepare to be absent from school for part of the day for these meetings/trainings.

The NYL holds two extended training programs that all youth legislators are required to attend. The first training program in August 2023 is conducted in Las Vegas, and the second training program in August 2024 is held in Carson City. The NYL covers the travel and lodging expenses for these programs.

ATTENDANCE

Youth legislators must attend all meetings/trainings, 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/training, 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.

Excused absences will be approved retroactively, when requested following a required NYL meeting/training, 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/training, activity, or event—or, if a request for an excused absence is declined—this will result in one unexcused activity credit. If a youth legislator does not submit a required outside assignment by a deadline day, this will result in a one-half unexcused activity credit. Therefore, submitting outside assignments before the deadline is highly encouraged.

If a youth legislator reaches three or more unexcused activity credits during their two-year term, [NRS 219A.150](#) 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 required meetings/trainings, events, and outside activities, 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 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 decision-making bodies and other entities.

NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE APPLICATION 2023–2025

Please print clearly.

Date of Application: _____

NOTE: Any information that you provide on this application will be used solely for the intended purposes of consideration for appointment to the Nevada Youth Legislature (NYL). Your information will not be shared with any other party, unless indicated it is okay to do so.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Last First Middle

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____ Gender: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

NOTE: Parent/Guardian's signature is required on page 5.

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____ Same address as applicant? Yes No

Address (*If Different*): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Email: _____

SCHOOL INFORMATION

NOTE: Principal's signature is required on page 5.

School Name: _____ State Senate District of School: _____

Principal's Name: _____

Grade Level **During the 2023–2024 School Year:** _____

SENATE DISTRICT INFORMATION

Please indicate which State Senate Districts are your 1st and 2nd choices for appointment to the NYL.

NOTE: The "Who's My Legislator" tool can be found at the following link:

<https://nvlcb.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/lookup/index.html?appid=0815e77623f04028993e9f3ecc56174e>

State Senate District of Residence: _____ Choice: _____

State Senate District of School: _____ Choice: _____

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

In addition to your completed application form and short-answer questions on the following three pages, you are required to submit one letter of recommendation from an adult mentor, religious leader, teacher, employer, or other adult who is 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.

NOTE: If you will be submitting the application electronically, please scan the letter of recommendation and include it with your completed online form.

Name of Reference: _____

Relation to Applicant: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

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? How would you fully engage in the democratic process to accomplish specific goals of the NYL?

2. Every legislative session, the NYL can 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 key points would you advocate to your NYL colleagues to persuade them to support your proposal?

NOTICE: If you submit the application *electronically*, please print this page, obtain the signatures needed, scan the completed page, and include it with the form you filled out online.

SIGNATURES

I approve the participation of _____ in the Nevada Youth Legislature (NYL). I will do everything possible to support their full engagement in the program, including attendance at meetings and trainings, as well as completion of outside assignments and participation in events. I understand that NYL meetings and trainings are recorded, and some of these will be uploaded to the Legislative website.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

I understand that participation in the NYL involves required meetings, trainings, and other activities that are scheduled during the school day. I give my permission for this NYL applicant to miss school to satisfy these NYL requirements.

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 fulfill these responsibilities to the best of my ability. I also pledge to use my position on the Nevada Youth Legislature to protect and serve the youth of Nevada.

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

INFORMATION REGARDING SUBMITTING APPLICATION

We appreciate your interest in the NYL and look forward to reviewing your application. For more information regarding the NYL, you may visit: <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/NYL/>.

You may submit your application in one of the following ways:

Via:	To:
Mail	NYL Facilitator Research Division Legislative Counsel Bureau 401 South Carson Street Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747
Fax	(775) 684-6400
Email	info@youthleg.state.nv.us PDF PREFERRED —Due to personal information included on form.

Applications must be postmarked or received on or before March 31, 2023.

**ALL APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED
ABOUT THE STATUS OF THEIR APPLICATIONS.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tina Ashdown, Program Facilitator, at (775) 684-6740 or via email at info@youthleg.state.nv.us.