



HOW TO APPLY

Applications for appointment to the NYL are available at: www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/NYL

You may submit your application by email, fax, or mail. Your application must include:

- A completed and signed application form, including short-answer essays; and
- One letter of recommendation.

DEADLINE: Check the NYL's website for the application deadline details.

If you have any questions concerning the application process, please contact the NYL Program Facilitator in the Research Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau at info@youthleg.state.nv.us.

NOTE: In order to serve as a Youth Legislator, you must be able to complete a full two-year term while still in high school. Thus, applicants must be in the 8th, 9th, or 10th grade.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

TERM: *Two years*

Each term begins on June 1st and ends on May 31st of odd-numbered years. Members elect a Chair and Vice Chair, who serve for one-year terms.

MANDATORY MEETINGS AND TRAININGS

Eleven required meetings/trainings during the two-year term

The program includes a one-day training in Las Vegas and a two-day training in Carson City, as well as half-day meetings and trainings during each school year. Trainings prepare Youth Legislators for: connecting with constituents; maintaining message accountability; honing their listening, presentation, and negotiation skills; and developing a bill to be considered by the Nevada Legislature during the upcoming session. Most meetings and trainings are held in the afternoon during the week and may require missing afternoon classes or school activities. Participation costs for the one- and two-day trainings—including any necessary travel, meals, and/or lodging—are covered by the program.



THE NYL PROVIDES UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES TO:

- 1 Connect with peers from across the State
- 2 Represent Nevada youth in local and State policy-making
- 3 Engage with State Legislators and other elected officials
- 4 Develop legislation to be considered by State lawmakers
- 5 Participate in one-of-a-kind leadership training and activities
- 6 Access opportunities through NYL college scholarships
- 7 Continue peer relationship building through the NYL alumni network

NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

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NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE (NYL)



2024

The Student Voice in State Government

Nevada Revised Statutes 219A.130



ABOUT THE NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

The Nevada Youth Legislature (NYL) is a two-year program that gives high school students an opportunity to learn about representative government and take an active role in the legislative process. As a highlight of the program each term, the NYL develops and presents a bill to the Nevada Legislature on an issue important to Nevada youth.

Each of Nevada's 21 State Senators appoints a Youth Legislator to represent their Senate District. Interested students may apply for the Senate District where they live or attend high school.

INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENTS

Seven assignments during the two-year term

YOUTH LEGISLATORS:

- Create a written plan for organizing a town hall meeting;
- Conduct at least one town hall meeting to gain insight into issues important to youth;
- Prepare for possible communications opportunities by writing three questions they might be asked and their answers to those questions;
- Provide a written plan for testifying before a public decision-making body;
- Testify before at least one public decision-making body;
- Develop a bill draft request (BDR) proposal for consideration by the NYL; and
- Write an outreach letter and send it to a youth-focused organization to help recruit NYL members for the next term.

ATTENDANCE/ASSIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS

Youth Legislators must attend all mandatory meetings, trainings, activities, and event days, unless excused. Youth Legislators with three unexcused absences or activity credits (as calculated below) must be released from the program, as required by [Nevada Revised Statutes 219A.150](#).

- Missed assignment = ½ activity credit
- Missed meeting or training day = 1 absence



HISTORY OF THE NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

The NYL was created in 2007 by [Senate Bill 247](#) and is now established in Nevada law as [Chapter 219A](#) of the *Nevada Revised Statutes*. The program was designed to give students a voice in State policymaking and allow them to influence issues that are important to Nevada youth.

In 2011, [Senate Bill 237](#) created the NYL Board to oversee the policies, practices, and finances of the program. The seven-member Board includes Legislators, representatives of the public, and, when possible, former Youth Legislators.

The NYL has presented multiple bills to the Nevada Legislature and lobbied for their passage. Among other policy initiatives, NYL proposals passed by the Legislature include bills:

- Requiring the development of a model curriculum for mathematics and English language arts ([Senate Bill 14](#), 2011);
- Revising provisions related to medical amnesty for people under the age of 21 who possess or consume alcohol ([Senate Bill 464](#), 2015);
- Requiring certain employees of the juvenile justice system to complete training in implicit bias and cultural competency ([Senate Bill 108](#), 2021); and
- Requiring the development of education-related accommodation policies for students who sustain head injuries ([Senate Bill 80](#), 2023).

