

# Youth Council Application



## What is the Minnesota Youth Council?

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The Minnesota Youth Council (MYC) seeks to recruit a diverse group of youth who represent the changing face of Minnesota and provide much-needed youth perspective into youth issues throughout our state. MYC gives members a forum to develop and strengthen their voices, engage in a dialogue with legislators and policy makers at the state level, as well as with local elected officials such as mayors, school superintendents and city council members. Additionally, members become equipped with critical thinking, public speaking and leadership skills necessary to act as representatives of youth in their communities and across the state.

MYC functions using a youth-adult partnership model, where youth and adults collaborate to lead the group and its initiatives together. This collaborative model facilitates a genuine relationship between youth and adults, who both have valuable things to teach and learn from one another.

As advocates of youth voice in Minnesota, MYC members work throughout the year to influence our state's growing achievement gap. At retreats, members educate each other and receive training about Minnesota's achievement gap, and work to advise Minnesota state legislature. In March of 2011, MYC members joined over 400 youth from around the state for a rally at the Capitol in St. Paul, which focused on issues facing youth in Minnesota. MYC members met individually with their local legislators to discuss issues that mattered to them personally to provide their perspective on statewide issues like drop-out prevention. As a member of MYC, you will meet regularly with local elected officials and policy makers as well as with legislators at the state level. More importantly, MYC is about empowering and engaging youth and adults to work together to create positive change across Minnesota.

## Benefits to Youth participating in MYC

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- Build lasting friendships with a diverse group of peers from across the state.
- Engage in dialogue and listening sessions with policy makers, elected officials and other community leadership.
- Opportunities to organize, lead, and engage in events promoting youth voice and leadership including Global Youth Service Day, Rally for Youth Day, the Red Wagon Awards and youth summits.
- Develop communication, leadership and research skills that may be reflected in future scholarship, college and job applications.
- *Be provided with the tools needed to bring about desired change in your community and the state.*

## Benefits to Adult Sponsors participating in MYC

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- A chance to network and connect with other youth and youth-serving organizations from across the state.
- Gather a statewide youth perspective that can impact community/organization programming.
- Participation in listening sessions with policy makers and elected officials.
- Recognition for the work you do with and for youth.
- Learn collaboratively with youth and work to shape policies that impact young people in Minnesota.

## Who can apply?

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Youth must meet the following criteria to apply for a seat on MYC

- Is between the ages of 13-19
- Lives in the state of MN
- Has an interest in building leadership skills and promoting youth voice and youth-adult partnerships
- The Council will be made up of four representatives from each of Minnesota's eight Congressional districts PLUS 4 at-large Representatives

## Frequently asked questions

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### How long can I serve in MYC?

*Each MYC term of service is one year and members may serve up to 2 two-year terms of service. Members may not exceed 2 terms.*

### What if I don't have an adult sponsor?

*If you cannot find an adult sponsor, please feel free to contact Melissa Burwell at [mburwell@mnyouth.net](mailto:mburwell@mnyouth.net). We will work with you to find a caring adult that would be willing to become your sponsor.*

### What is the interview process like?

*New youth applicants will have to go through a onetime interview with current MYC members and Alliance Staff. This interview is just a way for us to get to know you better and learn things about you that a paper application might miss. Returning applicants are required to complete an informal interview before continuing for a second year.*

### What if my adult sponsor can not transport me to retreats and other events?

*You may call Melissa at 612-616-2574 or Spencer at 612-213-3996 and a ride can be arranged for you to get to and from retreats and other events. Please inform us 24 hours before the event if you need a ride.*

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## How to submit your application

All applications must be received electronically by September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Please complete the attached Word document and email it to Spencer Neitzel at [promisefellow@mnyouth.net](mailto:promisefellow@mnyouth.net). Questions? Contact Melissa Burwell at 612-616-2574.

The following application should be completed by the youth member of the youth-adult team.

### All applications must include:

- Title page with the information table filled out
- Completed essay questions (please attach a separate page)
- 2 letters of recommendation (one from an adult and one from a fellow peer)

<b>Youth Information</b>	
Name:	Address:
Hometown:	Phone: Email:
Gender:	Year in school: School:
Your representative: *Find your district: <a href="http://www.house.gov/zip/ZIP2Rep.html">http://www.house.gov/zip/ZIP2Rep.html</a> <input type="checkbox"/> District 1 – Timothy J Walz <input type="checkbox"/> District 2 – John Kline <input type="checkbox"/> District 3 – Eric Paulsen <input type="checkbox"/> District 4 – Betty McCollom <input type="checkbox"/> District 5 – Keith Ellison <input type="checkbox"/> District 6 – Michelle Bachmann <input type="checkbox"/> District 7 – Collin C. Peterson <input type="checkbox"/> District 8 – Chip Cravaack	Emergency Contact info  Name:  Relationship:  Address:  Phone:
<i>Youth Signature</i>	
<b>Adult Sponsor Information</b>	
Name:	Address:
Gender:	Phone: Email:
Host Site Information:  Organization:  Address:  Phone:	Emergency Contact info  Name:  Relationship:  Phone:  Address:
<i>Adult Sponsor Signature</i>	

## Please respond to the following questions

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On a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions thoroughly.

With your answers, please attach two (2) letters of recommendation using the forms provided at the end of the application. One must be from a fellow youth and one from an adult other than your adult sponsor (teacher, counselor, coach, etc.)

When you have completed the application, please have your adult sponsor email the form to [promisefellow@mnyouth.net](mailto:promisefellow@mnyouth.net) or fax the form to 651-528-8588 c/o Melissa Burwell, Minnesota Alliance With Youth.

### Questions

1. Please tell us about yourself and your community and school. What are you involved in?
2. What are the strengths you bring to Minnesota Youth Council? What do you hope to gain from serving on the MYC?
3. What do you think are important issues facing young people in Minnesota?

3a. On a scale of 1-5 (5 being "expert") how familiar are you with the following:

	New to me			I'm an expert	
The Achievement Gap:	1	2	3	4	5
Dropout Prevention:	1	2	3	4	5
Educational Equity:	1	2	3	4	5
Youth/Adult Partnerships:	1	2	3	4	5
Youth voice and Advocacy:	1	2	3	4	5
The Legislative Process:	1	2	3	4	5

4. Tell us about your adult sponsor. How did you choose them? What is important for us to know about them?
5. Is there anything else we should know about you?

## Minnesota Youth Council Member Recommendation Form



Name of Youth: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please take a few minutes to share what you know about this young person. They are applying to be part of the Minnesota Youth Council, a statewide council consisting of youth and adults who provide insight and advice to the MN State Legislature and other policy and decision-makers regarding youth and youth-related issues. The Council is convened by the Minnesota Alliance With Youth in partnership with various state offices and community partners. For more information, visit [www.mnyouth.net](http://www.mnyouth.net)*

I am:  a youth  an adult

1. How do you know this young person and how long have you known them?

Friend  Mentor  Teacher  Employer  Other

2. What are this individual's strengths?

3. Name an area in which this youth could grow (ex. leadership, public speaking, etc.) In what specific ways do they need to develop?

(over)

4. What would make this applicant a strong contributing member of the Minnesota Youth Council?

5. What is one interesting thing about this person's personality (think: what makes them unique?)

6. Are there any reasons this person should not be selected to serve on the Minnesota Youth Council?

Your Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

phone: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:

By mail:

Minnesota Alliance With Youth  
c/o Melissa Burwell  
2233 University Ave. W #235  
St. Paul, MN 55114  
Fax #: 651-528-8588

By email:

[mburwell@mnyouth.net](mailto:mburwell@mnyouth.net)

or

[promisefellow@mnyouth.net](mailto:promisefellow@mnyouth.net)

## Dates to Remember

Date	Timeline	Notes
June 2011	Applications Available	Find it at <a href="http://www.mnyouth.net">www.mnyouth.net</a>
September 5, 2011	<b>Applications Due to the Alliance Office</b>	Email to: <a href="mailto:promisefellow@mnyouth.net">promisefellow@mnyouth.net</a> Fax: 651-528-8588
September 5-12, 2011	Interviews of youth applicants	
September 15, 2011	Selected applicants notified	
September 24-25, 2011	Retreat #1	Location TBD MOU and parent permission slips DUE!
October 22, 2011	Monthly Meeting	Location TBD
November 19, 2011	Monthly Meeting	Location TBD
December 17, 2011	Monthly Meeting	Location TBD
January 2012	Youth Summit	State Capitol
February 2012	Youth Summit	Location TBD
March 2012	Rally for Youth Day	State Capitol
April 2012	Global Youth Service Day	Mall of America
May 2012	Retreat #2	Location TBD
June 2012	Reflection meeting	Location TBD
July 2012	2012 Planning Meeting	Location TBD

**\*Please note that dates and times are subject to change**



The Minnesota Youth Council



MYC members meeting with a legislator



## Memorandum of Understanding

(due at first retreat)

### **Adult Sponsor will:**

- Provide support, advice and assistance to youth and adult members in activities in their home communities outside of the MYC meetings
- Act as the main conduit and contact person for the youth to the Alliance and to the youth participants by sharing information, agendas, and preparing for meetings
- Attend each of the meetings with the youth
- Attend a planning meeting prior to each day long event (conference calling available)
- Prepare the youth before each meeting
- Provide transportation to and from required events
- Participate fully as adult sponsors on the Minnesota Youth Council and adhere to the same behavior expectations as youth members
- Provide professional, constructive feedback to Alliance staff about any issues that might arise with youth members or adult sponsors

### **Minnesota Youth Council members will:**

- Accept responsibility for representing themselves, their adult sponsor and MYC with respect.
- Be punctual for scheduled activities
- Participate fully in all events/retreats
- Commit to doing any preparation work necessary prior to meetings
- Will notify MYC Advisors at least 3 days prior if unable to attend a meeting
- Bring back to your community what you learn (ex. meet with school board)
- Refrain from leaving the location of a MYC event during the course of the event, unless written permission from a parent/legal guardian is given to MYC staff prior to leaving
- Refrain from the use and/or possession of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or mood-altering substances
- Refrain from disruptive and/or inappropriate behavior and clothing
- Recognize the rights of others with respect to noise, language, and conduct
- Respect the property of others, including clothing, personal items, equipment, and facilities
- Refrain from the use and/or possession of any weapon(s)
- Refrain from use of vehicles for personal reasons while participating in MYC activities
- Refrain from sexually inappropriate behavior, including contact of a sexual nature during MYC events or behavior of a sexual nature that makes others uncomfortable
- Abide by any additional rules, procedures, and policies relating to specific activities or events established by MYC staff

My parent/legal guardian, adult sponsor and I have read, discussed, accept, and will abide by this Memorandum of Understanding agreement. We also understand that infractions of the agreement may cause loss of privileges during MYC events, participation in the event to be terminated, or if sufficiently serious, termination from membership in the MYC. We agree to accept the appropriate and logical consequences of my actions, which may include being picked up by a parent/guardian during an event.

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Youth Participant's Signature

Date

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Please Print Youth Participant's Name

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Adult Sponsor Signature

Date

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Please Print Adult Sponsor's Name



*Engagement. Voice. Success.*

## Parent/Legal Guardian Release Form

Youth's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Street): \_\_\_\_\_

Address (City/State/Zip): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my child to participate in the Minnesota Youth Council and associated events conducted by the Minnesota Alliance With Youth and their partner organizations. In doing so I understand the following:

1. I understand that some of the information collected and shared by my child is considered private under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Chapter 13. This information will be used for programming purposes and given only to people responsible for the program and evaluation of it.
2. I give permission for print media, photos, online materials, or videotapes of my child in Minnesota Youth Council and related activities and events to be reproduced for promotional or educational purposes, including use on the Alliance websites.
3. I agree that all activities and use of all facilities related to Minnesota Youth Council events and activities shall be undertaken by my child at his/her own risk. I agree that the Minnesota Alliance With Youth which facilitate the Youth Council, members, sponsors, contributors, and cooperating agencies, their officers, directors, regents, representatives, employees and other Youth Council participants, shall not be liable for any claims, demands, injuries, damages, actions or causes of action, whatsoever to my child or his/her property arising out of or connected with the participation in this group or the premises where programs/events occur. On behalf of my child and myself, I do hereby expressly release all and each of them from all such claims. I do not, however, release these individuals and entities for liability for intentional, willful or wanton acts and this release shall not be construed to include such acts.

I have read and understand and agree to the terms and conditions of this release.  
This release is valid through September 1, 2012.

Parent/Legal Guardian Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_