

GOVERNOR'S YOUTH COMMISSION

2021-22 Information Packet



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GOVERNOR'S YOUTH COMMISSION

OVERVIEW

The Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) is pleased to announce that applications for the 2021-22 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 GOYFF. 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 Doug Ducey's priorities related to substance abuse prevention, human trafficking, sexual & domestic violence, juvenile justice, and child well-being. 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 counties of the state, appointed by the Governor. The mission of the GYC is "to identify and address the greatest challenges facing Arizona's youth through innovative community impact projects, establishing partnerships with young leaders across the state, and advising the Governor." The contributions of the GYC to the state are part of the greater story of youth empowerment in Arizona and in 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. TRAGYC was housed within the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. In 1988, Governor 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. GYCAD was housed within the Governor's Office of Drug Policy for much of the 1990s. It was not until the 2000s that GYCAD changed to become simply 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 around only 40-50 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 and 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 school and community and their demonstrated oral and written ability to communicate through the application process. The application process will consist of completing an application round 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 2021-22.

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 those Commissioners traveling 50 miles or more from outside of Maricopa County. Prior to 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.

Meetings: The full Commission will have four quarterly meetings throughout the term, including the OReO (Orientation, Retreat, and Onboarding). Each Commissioner will also be placed into a Workgroup, and those Workgroup Meetings will meet regularly in between the quarterly Commission meetings.

Application Form: The application form can be accessed [here](#) or by copy and pasting the form URL to your web browser – <https://forms.gle/JqF993jT4Xy9dXSUA>. A hard copy that can be mailed is available at [BeSeenBeHeard.AZ.gov](https://www.be-seen-be-heard.org/). The application form will consist of the following parts:

- **Part 1 – Applicant Contact Information**
- **Part 2 – Parent Contact Information**
- **Part 3 – Short Essays***
 - Personal Statement
 - Leadership Statement
 - Project Planning
- **Part 4 – Resume**
- **Part 5 – Letter of Recommendation**
 - Please include one letter of recommendation with the application. 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. You may upload up to two letters, but only one is required.
 - 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 6 – OReO (Orientation, Retreat, and Onboarding) Attendance**
- **Part 7 – Signature Page**

Renewal Application Form: The application form can be accessed [here](#) or by copy and pasting the form URL to your web browser – <https://forms.gle/TabVR9zKhiMrjsx16>. The application form will consist of the following parts:

- **Part 1 – Applicant Contact Information**

- **Part 2 – Parent Contact Information**
- **Part 3 – Short Essays****
 - Personal Statement
 - Improvement Statement
 - Project Planning
- **Part 4 – Resume**
- **Part 5 – Leadership Roles**
- **Part 6 – OReO (Orientation, Retreat, and Onboarding) Attendance**
- **Part 7 – Signature Page**

Interviews: After the application period has ended, applicants who advance into the second round of consideration will be asked to participate in an interview with the GYC Applicant Review Team. Please be sure to check your email spam/junk folder and be on the lookout for emails ending in “@az.gov.” All interviews will be conducted virtually.

Selection: All applicants will be notified of their application status and whether they have been selected to serve on the GYC in mid-July 2021. If that changes, you will be notified.

Application Timeline:**

- Feb. 10, 2021 – Application Period Begins
- June 7, 2021 – Regular Application Period Ends
- June 8, 2021 – Rolling Application Period Begins for Select Counties
- Mid-Jun. to Mid-July – Interviews
- Mid-July – Status Notification

****Notice – Application Short Essays (must be typed, double-spaced, in 12 point font, in Times New Roman font or the like, and uploaded as PDFs):***

- **Personal Statement** – Please provide a short personal statement about why you want to serve on the GYC and what you hope to gain from the experience. In 200 words or less, please respond to this question.
- **Leadership Statement** – Describe your leadership background and experiences that have helped form your outlook on leadership. In 200 words or less, please respond to this question.
- **Project Planning** – The GYC achieves its mission through its Workgroups. Workgroups are formed around focus areas and Commissioners work through a project planning process designed to help Commissioners learn more about the specific issues within the focus areas that affect youth the most and identify ways in which youth can make an impact. During the discovery phase of this process, Commissioners are expected to research, engage with subject matter experts, and discuss information with each other. At the end of the discovery phase, Commissioners will submit a proposal for a project that the Workgroup will engage in to address an identified issue of the focus area. Identify a critical issue facing youth in Arizona today within the below listed focus areas and what would you suggest the GYC do to help address this issue? Focus areas: Bullying & Cyberbullying, Civic Engagement, Distracted Driving, Domestic Violence, Education, Food Insecurity, Juvenile Justice, Physical & Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Sustainable Development, and Technology & Connectivity. In 500 words or less, please respond to this question. Please provide citations to support your answer. Your works cited, references, or bibliography will not be counted towards the word count. Please include the focus area as part of the essay title and include your word count at the end of the essay.

**** Notice – Renewal Application Short Essays (must be typed, double-spaced, in 12 point font, in Times New Roman font or the like, and uploaded as PDFs):**

- Personal Statement – Please provide a short personal statement about why you want to serve on the GYC and what you hope to gain from the experience. In 200 words or less, please respond to this question.
- Improvement Statement – How can the GYC be improved upon? In 200 words or less, please respond to this question and be specific.
- Project Planning – The GYC achieves its mission through its Workgroups. Workgroups are formed around focus areas and Commissioners work through a project planning process designed to help Commissioners learn more about the specific issues within the focus areas that affect youth the most and identify ways in which youth can make an impact. During the discovery phase of this process, Commissioners are expected to research, engage with subject matter experts, and discuss information with each other. At the end of the discovery phase, Commissioners will submit a proposal for a project that the Workgroup will engage in to address an identified issue of the focus area. Identify a critical issue facing youth in Arizona today within the below listed focus areas and what would you suggest the GYC do to help address this issue? Focus areas: Bullying & Cyberbullying, Civic Engagement, Distracted Driving, Domestic Violence, Education, Food Insecurity, Juvenile Justice, Physical & Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Sustainable Development, and Technology & Connectivity. In 500 words or less, please respond to this question. Please provide citations to support your answer. Your works cited, references, or bibliography will not be counted towards the word count. Please include the focus area as part of the essay title and include your word count at the end of the essay.

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

Additional Information: For additional information please contact our office at (602) 542-4043 or at gyc@az.gov.

AGREEMENTS OF PARTICIPATION

Applicants that are selected to join the 2021-22 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 on behalf of all the youth of Arizona. Their advice is valuable and their requests should be taken seriously.
- Please respect your fellow commission members and commission staff by arriving on time, prepared, and with the flexibility expected of professionals in regard to meeting length and proper business attire.
- You will be provided with an agenda at each meeting. Keep the focus of the meeting to the listed topics.

- Have fun and learn from this valuable opportunity. Your contributions are important, and will be used by state officials to develop policies and/or activities, which will affect every citizen in Arizona.