



# City of Fresno Youth Commission

Application for March 2016 - December 2017 Term

Do you have an opinion about how your community makes decisions impacting you, your friends, and family?

Do you want to be involved with representing youth in your community to make a change?

## Join the City of Fresno Youth Commission!

Youth Leadership Institute  
1749 L Street, Fresno, CA 93721  
Phone: (559) 255-3300  
[www.yli.org](http://www.yli.org)

Please refer questions to:

Lemuel Mariano, Program Coordinator, Youth Commission Staff and  
Yammilette Rodriguez, Senior Director, Youth Leadership Institute

Phone: (559) 255-3300

Email: [lmariano@yli.org](mailto:lmariano@yli.org) and [yrodriguez@yli.org](mailto:yrodriguez@yli.org)

## Who We Are and What We Do:

The purpose of the Youth Commission is to bring Fresno's young people to the decision-making table on issues impactful to youth within the jurisdiction of the city. The Youth Commission will serve as a space where young people can work to create positive change in our community. Young people will have a voice in shaping and developing social, economic, recreational, and educational programs that serve youth.

The City of Fresno Youth Commission will be comprised of 16 individuals, eight voting members and eight alternate, non-voting members. Two members will be appointed from each of Fresno's seven city council districts and two will be appointed at-large by the Mayor. Appointments are for a two-year term, March 2016 through December 2017. Procedures are in place to ensure that the members of the Youth Commission are representative and inclusive of the rich diversity of the City of Fresno, including but not limited to:

- Ethnically and culturally diverse youth,
- youth with health disparities,
- youth who are out of school,
- youth who are unemployed,
- youth who are homeless, and
- youth who are LGBTQIA

Youth Commissioners will be trained and supported by Youth Leadership Institute and the City of Fresno. Each year, Youth Commissioners benefit from youth leadership training and prioritize those issues that most impact youth and/or that have little or no youth input or representation.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### **What is the time commitment in serving as a Commissioner?**

The Youth Commission requires the commissioner to devote their time and abilities. The commission has a minimum time requirement of 10 hours per month. The Youth Commission will hold regular meetings once per month. In addition, Commissioners must attend all trainings and may be asked to attend City Council meetings in support of agenda items, constituents, or a community issue.

### **Who can be a Commissioner?**

Each voting member and alternate must attend a school and/or reside in the city of Fresno and be between the ages of 15 and 21. You must be passionate about youth and community issues—about the decisions the city makes that affect you and your friends! Commissioners must attend ALL mandatory events.

### **What dates and activities are mandatory for me to attend as a Commissioner?**

- Swearing In and Meet Elected Officials: March 31, 2016
- Youth and Parent Orientation: Saturday, April 2, 2016, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Shadow/Meeting with Elected Officials: April 4-9, 2016 (One meeting scheduled during the week)
- Action Planning Meeting: TBA
- Monthly Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 5:30 - 7:00 pm, April 2016 - December 2017
- Bi-Monthly Trainings: 4th Tuesday, 5:30 - 7:00 pm, Dates TBA
- One-Day Summer Training: July 2016
- One-Day Winter Training: December 2016 or January 2017
- One-Day Spring Training: March 2017

## How To Apply\*

The application process and timeline for the 2016-2017 term are as follows:

Fill out the attached application (i.e., personal information, applicant agreement, and essay questions) and turn it into the Youth Leadership Institute office (by fax, email, snail mail, or in person). Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis until Thursday, March 10th, 2016. Late and/or incomplete applications will not be accepted. Reviews will end as of Friday, March 18th, 2016. Please note that the application process may also include a face-to-face interview. Final selection and notification will be made by Monday, March 28th, 2016.

Selected applicants must attend a swearing in ceremony at Fresno City Hall on Thursday, March 31st, 2016. In addition, Commissioners are required to attend a MANDATORY youth and parent orientation on Saturday, April 2nd, 2016.

\* Please complete ALL information. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

### Personal Information

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

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are or will be in school, what school will you attend in the fall of 2016?

\_\_\_\_\_

If you are attending school, what grade will you be in during the 2016-2018 term?

\_\_\_\_\_

Would this be your first year on the Youth Commission? If no, how many years have you been on the Youth Commission?

\_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the Youth Commission? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you related to the Mayor and/or any of the City Councilmembers? If yes, please explain:

Please provide three personal and professional references as well as one letter of recommendation. Include their names, addresses, and a phone number where they can be reached.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach one letter of recommendation from someone who can share more about the type of person you are and what attributes, talents, and passion you could bring to the Fresno Youth Commission.

Please check the district you live in:

<input type="checkbox"/> District 1	<input type="checkbox"/> District 2	<input type="checkbox"/> District 3	<input type="checkbox"/> District 4	<input type="checkbox"/> District 5	<input type="checkbox"/> District 6	<input type="checkbox"/> District 7
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Would you like to be considered for a Mayor's appointment to the Youth Commission?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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Not sure about which district you live in? Follow the link below to find out:  
<http://www.fresno.gov/Government/CityCouncil/CouncilLocator.htm>

## Applicant Agreement

I, \_\_\_\_\_,

### **Certify that:**

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial) The information provided in this application is accurate and I have made every attempt to answer all questions truthfully and to the fullest extent possible.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial) I have reviewed the application and the required dates for the 2016- 2017 Youth Commissioner term and understand that all events and commission meetings are MANDATORY.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial) I have also discussed or will discuss the time commitment with my **parent(s) or legal guardian(s), teachers, sport coaches, employer, and other activity programs**, and can make a serious time commitment given my responsibilities.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Essay Questions

On a separate piece of paper, please respond to the following questions.

1. Why do you want to be a Youth Commissioner?
2. What are some issues that affect you, your peers, or your community? If you had a meeting with a member of the Fresno City Council or the Mayor tomorrow, what would you talk about with them and advise them on?
3. The Youth Commission requires a commitment of at least 10 hours a month. In order to truly make an impact, it is often necessary to go beyond that minimum commitment. Please list ALL of the other commitments you have during the school year (job, clubs, sports, etc.) and in what ways are you prepared to dedicate time to meet the Commission's goals?

Please submit application in person, by fax, snail mail (postmarked March 10th), or email by Thursday, March 10th, 2016 to:

Youth Leadership Institute  
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