



# City of Fresno Youth Commission

## Application

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

How can you be involved with representing youth in your community to make a change?

## Join the City of Fresno Youth Commission!

Youth Leadership Institute  
700 Van Ness Ave. Suite #012, Fresno, CA 93721  
Phone: (559) 492-9501  
[www.yli.org](http://www.yli.org)

## Applications are accepted on a rolling basis

Please refer questions to:

**Cynthia Sapien, Director or  
Jose Espinoza, Program Manager for the City of Fresno Youth Commission,  
Youth Leadership Institute**

Phone: (559) 492-9501

Email/ Scan application to: [jespinoza@yli.org](mailto:jespinoza@yli.org)

Or

Drop off at 700 Van Ness Ave. (Suite #012), Fresno, Ca., 93727

## 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 impacting 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 local city districts. Young people will have a voice in shaping and developing social, economic, recreational, and educational programs that serve our community's 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 by the Mayor. Appointments are for a two-year term. 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 the 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 to serve as a Commissioner?**

The Youth Commission requires the commissioner to devote their time and abilities for a minimum requirement of 10 hours per month. The Youth Commission will hold regular meetings once per month, sometimes twice a month. In addition, Commissioners must attend all trainings, mandatory events, 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!

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

- Swearing-In and Meet Elected Officials
- Youth and Parent Orientation
- Meeting with Elected Officials
- Monthly Meetings and/or trainings: Twice a month but at least once a month
- One-two Day Summer Training
- One-Day Winter Training
- One-Day Spring Training

## **How To Apply**

The application process and timeline 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 email to jespinoza@yli.org or in person at YLI). Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis, and may also include an interview. We require the following information in order to establish communication, understand background, and obtain an outlook of our community's diverse population.

In addition, selected applicants are required to attend a MANDATORY youth and parent orientation.

\* Please complete ALL information to the best of your ability. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

### **Personal Information**

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

Home Address/\*Area of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender Identity: \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Pronouns: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are or will be in school, what school will you attend in the Fall of 2021?

\_\_\_\_\_

If you are attending school, what grade will you be in during the 2021-2022 term?

\_\_\_\_\_

What other extra-curricular commitments have you made for the year? (clubs, sports, employment, other programs)

\_\_\_\_\_

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, or a phone number where they can be reached.

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

## **Letter of Recommendation**

Please attach one letter of recommendation from someone who can share more about the type of person you are and what attributes, talents, and passions 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 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 page, please respond to the following prompts in a detailed manner.

1. Please explain why you are interested in being a member of the Youth Commission?
2. What are some issues that affect you, your peers, or your community? If you had the opportunity to meet with a member of the Fresno City Council or the Mayor, what topics would you bring to their attention?
3. Describe an experience or project working with a team of diverse peers and adults. Have you been involved in a project that focused on community change?
4. Describe an opportunity where you assumed a leadership role and what skills/abilities you were able to develop.
5. As mentioned above, the Fresno City Youth Commission has a minimum time requirement of 10 hours per month. There may be times where it will be necessary to go beyond the minimum commitment, please explain in what ways you are prepared to meet the Commission's goals.

Please submit application in person or email to:

Youth Leadership Institute  
700 Van Ness Ave. Suite#012  
Fresno, CA 93721  
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Attn: Jose Espinoza, YLI Program Manager  
Email: jespinoza@yli.org