Application for 2016-2017 Term

Do you have an opinion about how your community makes decisions impacting you and your friends? Do you want to be a youth leader who creates community change?

Join the Marin County Youth Commission!

Applications due: Friday, June 24th, 2016

Youth Leadership Institute Office
910 Irwin Street, San Rafael, CA 94901
Phone: (415) 455-1676
Fax: (415) 455-1683

Please refer questions to:
Deborah Schoenbaum, Senior Director, Youth Leadership Institute
Phone: (415) 455-1676
Email: dschoenbaum@yli.org
Who We Are and What We Do:
Founded in 1969, the Marin County Youth Commission (MCYC) is one of the oldest and most well regarded youth commissions in the United States. Made up of 20 diverse youth between the ages of 12 and 23, MCYC’s goal is to act as a political voice for young people by engaging with the Marin County Board of Supervisors and other policy makers. MCYC is staffed and run by the Youth Leadership Institute (YLI).

Guided by its bylaws, 10 Commissioners represent the 5 districts of Marin County (2 per district). The remaining 10 seats are intentionally appointed as advocates for Marin’s diverse and traditionally underserved youth populations - with priority being placed on, but not limited to:

- Youth of color
- Youth with disabilities,
- Homeless youth,
- Rural youth
- Lesbian, gay, and questioning youth.

Supported by YLI staff, MCYC conducts community-based research throughout the County to determine and launch youth advocacy and social justice campaigns that combat inequity and raise awareness regarding particular issues. In many cases, MCYC leads campaigns that entail changing existing policies or laws, or establishes new ones. Each year, Commissioners benefit from youth leadership training and prioritize issues that most impact youth and/or have little or no youth input or representation.

Why should you join?

“My experience with MCYC has empowered me for the better. It has taught me many different skills for my life.” Sarah, 8th grader

“MCYC has given me a platform to work against the injustices I see in Marin County.” Ethan, sophomore

The Youth Leadership Institute
Application for the Marin County Youth Commission, 2016-2017
The amazing things we have done:
The MCYC takes on community challenges and inequities they wish to address or improve throughout Marin County. Over recent years Youth Commissioners have:

- Hosted and led Marin County’s first Youth Justice Symposium, which brought together youth and adult allies to collaborate and identify needed policies on a variety of issues (including inequities related to access to healthy food)
- Passed two school district policies focused on creating safer campuses for LGBTQ students
- Passed a Food Truck Ordinance, promoting healthy food options and reducing the prevalence of junk food targeting youth
- Created school district alcohol sponsorship policies, banning the advertisement of alcohol products during school-sanctioned events
- Implemented countywide school surveys to assess issues regarding underage use of and access to alcohol and marijuana, barriers to college readiness and school climate within the LGBTQ community

Possible projects for next year:
During their 2015-16 term Commissioners focused on three issue areas:

- The **Education Equity** Advisory Committee focused on A-G Requirements and how youth can best be informed of these requirements to attend higher education.
- The **Food Justice** Advisory Committee worked to establish a “garden-to-cafeteria” process in two pilot schools in order to get healthier food to marginalized youth.
- The **Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Prevention** Advisory Committee is part of a countywide coalition focused on policy change to reduce youth access to alcohol and are currently identifying policies to change and/or implement.

Frequently Asked Questions:  
What is the time commitment in serving as a Commissioner?  
The Youth Commission is a very serious time commitment! The commission has a minimum time requirement of 10 hours per month. Per the Youth Commission bylaws*, MCYC shall hold regular meetings at least twice per month on Monday nights 6:30-8:30pm. Commissioners shall decide on meeting dates and times for their respective committees. In addition, commissioners may be asked to attend Board of Supervisor meetings in support of agenda items, constituents or a community issue. * For a copy of the complete bylaws, please contact YLI office.
**Who can be a Commissioner?**
You must attend school and/or reside in Marin County and be between the ages of 12 and 23. You must be passionate about youth and community issues - about the decisions the city or county makes that affect you and your friends!

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

**Dates to know - for approved applications:**
- Interviews for the commission will be held from mid-May through July 20, 2016
- MANDATORY Youth/Parent/Guardian Orientation Friday night, August 5, 2016
- MANDATORY Youth Commission Retreat Saturday, August 6, 2016*
- MANDATORY Youth Commission swear in Monday, August 8, 2016  
  *There is the possibility this retreat might be an overnight one starting on August 5th, following the youth/parent/guardian orientation (parents do not attend the retreat).  
- **Commissioners must attend ALL Mandatory events. There are no exceptions or “negotiations.”**

**How To Apply**
The application process and timeline for the 2016-2017 term are as follows:

Fill out the below application (i.e., personal information, applicant agreement and essay questions) and turn it in to the Youth Leadership Institute office (by fax, email, regular mail or in person). **Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis until Friday, June 24th, 2016.** Late and/or incomplete applications will not be accepted. Interviews will be set up as we receive applications and will end as of Wednesday, July 20, 2016. Final selection and notification will be made by Friday, July 22, 2016.

Approved applicants are required to attend a **MANDATORY** youth/parent orientation on Friday, August 5 and a day long (possibly two day) retreat August 6, 2016. Those who complete the retreat will move on to the afternoon swearing in ceremony Monday, August 8th. **You must attend the orientation and retreat to be sworn in by the Marin County Board of Supervisors.**

You can now apply online: [http://tinyurl.com/mcycapp](http://tinyurl.com/mcycapp)
* Please complete ALL information. Incomplete applications may be disqualified.

**Personal Information**

Name: _______________________________________________________________

Home Address: _________________________________________________________

City: __________________________________________________ Zip Code:__________

Home Phone: _______________ Cell Phone: _______________

Email: _________________________ Age: _______________________

Birthday: ________________ Gender: ______________ Ethnicity: _____________

Sexual Orientation: ______________ Language(s) Spoken: ________________

What communities do you feel connected to?
(Examples: Lesbian, Transgender, Gay, Disabled, Homeless, Teen Parent, Low-Income, Irish American, etc.) You are not limited to these choices. Feel free to add your own.

____________________________________________________________________

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

____________________________________________________________________

What grade will you be in during the 2016 -2017 term? ________________

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

____________________________________________________________________

How did you hear about the Youth Commission? __________________________

____________________________________________________________________

Please check the district you live in:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>District 1</th>
<th>District 2</th>
<th>District 3</th>
<th>District 4</th>
<th>District 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Terra Linda, Lucas Valley, Marinwood, Santa Venetia, San Rafael, Peacock Gap, West End)</td>
<td>(Downtown San Rafael, Gerstle Park, Lomita Park, Bret Harte, Sleepy Hollow, San Anselmo, Fairfax, Ross, Kentfield, Greenbrae)</td>
<td>(Mill Valley, Strawberry, Tiburon, Belvedere, Marin City, Tamalpais Valley, Sausalito)</td>
<td>(West Marin, West Novato, San Geronimo Valley, Canal Area of San Rafael, South San Rafael, Larkspur, Corte Madera, Homestead Valley)</td>
<td>(North Marin, Novato, Black Point, Ignacio, Hamilton, Indian Valley)</td>
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Not sure about which district you live in? Click here to find out.
Applicant Agreement

I, __________________________________________ (youth applicant),

Certify that:

_________________ 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.

_________________ I have reviewed the application and the required dates for the 2016-2017 Youth Commissioner terms and understand that all events and commission meetings as well as a minimum of 10 hours a month involvement are MANDATORY.

_________________ I have also discussed or will discuss the time commitment with my parents or legal guardian, teachers, sport coaches, employer and other activity programs, and can make a serious time commitment given my responsibilities.

_________________ I understand that this year’s Orientation and Retreat will be held on Friday evening and Saturday day, August 5-6, 2016, and that my attendance is required on all days. I also understand that there will be additional days of training—and that all of these days are required.

Essay Questions

Please respond to the following questions (please use a separate piece of paper if you are not filling this out online).

1) Why do you want to be a Youth Commissioner?

2) What are the most important issues affecting you or your community? If you had a meeting with a County Supervisor tomorrow, what would you advise them on?

3) The Youth Commission requires a commitment of at least 10 hours a month including public meetings, workgroup/commission meetings, and time to move projects, campaigns and initiatives forward. Please list ALL other commitments you have during the school year (job, family responsibilities, clubs, sports, AP
classes, etc.) and in what ways are you prepared to dedicate time to meet the Commission’s goals?

4) What skills do you hope gain from serving on the Youth Commission?

5) Select an issue or problem within your school or community that pertains to educational equity, food justice, alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention, or youth in general. Propose a possible solution to it.

6) What questions do you have about the Commission?

Note: if you would like to share more with us, please provide a letter of recommendation from someone not in your family (for example: a teacher, counselor, etc.) who can share more about the type of person you are and what attributes, talents, and passion you could bring to the Youth Commission. THIS IS OPTIONAL. If you choose to submit a letter of recommendation, please email to dschoenbaum@yli.org with the subject “MCYC Letter of Recommendation for (your name).”

Applications due: Friday, June 24th, 2016

Please submit application online, in person, by fax, regular mail or email by Friday, June 24, 2016 to:

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