



Iowa Youth Congress Information and Application

Any Iowa high school student can apply to be part of Iowa Youth Congress (IYC). There is no cost to participate and the program will provide any accommodations necessary for students accepted into IYC. Iowa Youth Congress is a diverse and dynamic group of student representatives and we are always looking for students with new perspectives. Please apply.

IYC brings students from across the state to discuss issues that affect youth as decided on by youth. Students from each region will meet in the fall of 2013 to brainstorm and discuss ideas that they would like to see become new laws, or corrections to current laws. After talking about these ideas in the regional meetings, students decide which ideas they will build on and then present at the all-student gathering at the Capitol in Des Moines.

Just like state representatives, Iowa Youth Congress members will travel from all parts of Iowa to talk about their issues formally in the real House of Representatives at the Capitol in Des Moines. They will spend a full day over the weekend discussing their ideas in the same style as Iowa representatives and will attend a dinner together afterwards.

Besides the regional meetings and IYC House Session, Iowa Youth Congress members will be provided experience practicing and learning leadership skills. At times, students will have the opportunity of taking part in pre-planning for IYC events and initiatives. These open meetings will be accessible to students living in any part of the state, because they will be held over the phone.

This is a great way to demonstrate that youth make a difference in their community and in Iowa. IYC takes the great ideas youth have and brings them through a complete process on how to make their ideas real. Students will have a fun time with other students from all over the state, and in the process learn more about how people work together, and how the government works.

Iowa Youth Congress strives to model itself after the Iowa House of Representatives and accepts 100 students to participate. The application process for Iowa Youth Congress has two steps. The first is to fill out the application and send it in. The second is to answer follow-up questions over the phone or email. We will send this out when we receive the preliminary application. If there are more than 100 applicants, these follow-up questions will help IYC choose the students for that year and put others on a list of alternates, who will then get priority choice for next year. Anyone is welcome to apply and we hope you do.

What is my commitment?

- Members are expected to participate for the full year.
- Members will attend all events unless they have been excused by IYC programmers.
- All Officers are expected to run and attend all meetings unless they have been excused.
- When participating in the Annual House Chamber Session members will dress appropriately. No jeans or t-shirts are allowed (black pants, kakis, skirts, a nice top, suits, or dresses are required).
- Members will respect one another and act in a responsible manner at all times.
- While in Des Moines, all members will follow the rules given to them at the beginning of the weekend. If any rules are broken that member may be asked to leave.
- Members will be expected to research bills they propose before all meetings.
- Members will attend the Annual Session in Des Moines and have transportation arrangements made with travel reimbursement available for those who drive and request it.
- Members are expected to write or contact their legislators after the Annual House Session, to gain support of the IYC bills.

Application for Iowa Youth Congress

Download this form, fill out, and email it here: megan.blanford@iowa.gov

OR

Print this form, fill out, put in an envelope, and mail to:

*Iowa Youth Congress
Iowa Department of Human Rights
Lucas State Office Building, 2nd Floor
Des Moines, IA 50319*

Name: _____ School: _____

Grade: _____ E-mail: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

How long have you lived in Iowa? _____

Please list any accommodations needed for you to attend the Iowa Youth Congress events, so that we can make adequate arrangements.

Do you have access to your own transportation? If so, please specify what type of transportation you have access to.

List your before/after school activities, as well as the times and days they take place.

Please list specific weekends or weekdays you will be unavailable. This assists us in selecting the meeting dates.

Have you participated in IYC before? Yes/No

If so, for how long? _____

How did you hear about IYC (a friend, from a teacher, a friend's parent, internet, facebook, twitter, etc...)?

optional information (choosing not to provide the below information will not affect your application)

Gender: Female Male

Race/Ethnicity:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African-American |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/ Latino | <input type="checkbox"/> Middle Eastern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native American | <input type="checkbox"/> White/Caucasian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interracial | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Please sign here to verify the above information given is accurate and you have read the above information about Iowa Youth Congress.

Signature of Youth _____ Date _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____ Date _____

Name of Parent or Guardian (Printed) _____

If you can't get the parent/guardian signature right now, please leave it blank and we'll contact you about it later on for the second step of our application process. We do our best to make it as easy to apply as possible. Thanks.