

Gwinnett Youth Commission

Application: 2021 – 2022 Program Year



Gwinnett County Government is looking for high school students to...

- Interact with Gwinnett County Government leaders
- Speak on behalf of Gwinnett County youth
- Help local government better understand the issues facing Gwinnett youth
- Serve as youth ambassadors for the county
- Plan community events and participate in volunteer projects

About the program: The Gwinnett Youth Commission, launched in 2017, is a program designed to educate youth about local government, engage youth in civic affairs, and provide an opportunity for youth to affect change in their community. Youth participants will get behind-the-scenes tours, interact with government leaders, and receive community leadership training designed to foster the next generation of leaders for Gwinnett County.

Curriculum: Students will receive eight weeks of training (eight sessions) over the summer that will involve instruction on Gwinnett government, team building and leadership development and community project planning. Successful completion of the eight-week training is required for induction as a formal Gwinnett Youth Commissioner.

Cost: There is no cost to participate in this program. Breakfast and lunch will be provided at all sessions as well as transportation for field trips.

Eligibility: To be considered for the program, youth must be a Gwinnett County Resident and:

- Attend a school in Gwinnett County (Gwinnett County Public Schools, Buford City Schools, Private, Charter, or Home Schools)
- Be in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade for the 2021 – 2022 academic year
- Submit a completed application and essay questions
- Submit a recommendation letter from a teacher, counselor, principal, religious leader, or community leader who has known the applicant for at least one year

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the class is limited to 15 participants this cycle.

How will students be selected? In order to be considered as a candidate for the Gwinnett Youth Commission, students must meet all of the requirements listed above. Selections will be made by an independent committee who will determine participants based on eligibility, strength of application, interaction at the informational session, and representation of a cross-section of Gwinnett Schools. Notifications of acceptance will go out at the end of April.

Schedule: The summer training will take place every Wednesday, beginning **June 2 through July 21**, from 8:00am to 4:00pm. The induction ceremony will be held **Tuesday, July 27 at 1:00pm** with a formal recognition and induction ceremony. All trainings will begin with continental breakfast and opening at the Gwinnett Justice & Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville.

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The summer training schedule is as follows:

Week 1 (June 2): Orientation and Program Overview

Week 2 (June 9): Introduction to County Government

Week 3 (June 16): Infrastructure/STEM (Water & Transportation)

Week 4 (June 23): Public Safety Day Police & Fire

Week 5 (June 30): Criminal Justice Day (Corrections, Detention Center)

Week 6 (July 7): Gwinnett Judicial Circuit

Week 7 (July 14): Health and Human Services, Civic Engagement and Volunteerism

Week 8 (July 21): Recreation and Wrap Up

Induction Ceremony: Tuesday, July 27 at 1:00pm

After successful completion of the training, youth commissioners will participate in special events, field trips, and assist with planning and participating community volunteer projects throughout Gwinnett County during the academic school year. Dates/times will be determined at the wrap-up session in July.

Monthly Meetings – will be held from August through May. In addition, the Youth Commission is required to participate in:

- The Gwinnett Great Days of Service – October
- America Recycles Day – November
- Gwinnett MLK Parade – January
- Visit to the Georgia State Capitol – March

Attendance: Once accepted into the program, students may not miss more than one training session. The orientation and graduation are required sessions. Students who miss more than one session will be automatically withdrawn from the program.

In addition, youth commissioners who miss monthly meetings and activities will not participate in field trips.

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Application: 2021 – 2022 Program Year



Deadline for submission: **Monday, April 12, by 5:00pm**

In order to be considered, students must meet the following criteria:

- Submit a **completed application**.
- Submit **typed essay questions**, outlined on page 4.
- Submit a one-page typed **recommendation letter** from a teacher, counselor, principal, pastor/religious leader, or community member who has known the applicant for at least one year.
- Must be a rising Sophomore, Junior, or Senior going in to the 2021 – 2022 school year.
- Must attend a Gwinnett County School, Buford City School, Private, or Charter, or Home School in Gwinnett County.
- Must be a Gwinnett County resident (residency will be verified to ensure eligibility).

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT IN THE SPACES BELOW:

Applicant's Name: _____

Street Address: _____
(no post office boxes, please)

City, State, and Zip Code: _____

Age: _____ Birth Date: ____/____/____ Sex: _____ Race/Ethnicity: _____
(optional) (optional)

School Name: _____ Grade Level for the 2021 – 2022 school year: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Shirt Size (select one): S M L XL 2X 3X 4X

Name of person providing recommendation: _____

Organization: _____

Job Title: _____ Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Are there any session dates you cannot make? Yes No

If Yes, which dates will you miss? _____

The orientation and graduation are required sessions. Students may not miss more than one session each program cycle.

Gwinnett Youth Commission

Application: 2021 – 2022 Program Year



Essay Questions

Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper and return with your application. Please number your answers to correspond with the questions. Answers must be typed. Please keep in mind that this section carries the most weight in determining selections.

1. Why do you want to participate in the Gwinnett Youth Commission?
2. What other activities are you involved in? (sports, extracurricular activities, jobs, clubs, etc.)
 - a. Are you in leadership roles in any of these activities?
 - b. If so – which and in what capacity?
 - c. Will any of this cause a scheduling problem for you? If so – explain.
3. In your own words, what does it mean to be a leader? (Be specific)
4. How have you demonstrated leadership in your school or community? Provide specific examples.
5. Explain a challenge impacting youth today and provide at least one solution or idea to address the issue.
6. What leadership skills or traits do you feel you bring to the program and as a potential youth commissioner?

Attachments (select all that apply):

- Recommendation letter from Teacher, Counselor, School Administrator, or Community Leader. Must be the same person listed in the application. Recommendation letters can be submitted with the application or sent separately by the individual providing the recommendation.
- Essay questions detailing your answers, typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font.

Applications are due by Monday, April 12 at 5:00pm.

Submit complete applications by postal mail, email, or fax to:

Attn: Jessica Stewart, Community Programs Manager
Gwinnett County Community Outreach
75 Langley Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Fax: 770.822.7097

Email: Jessica.Stewart@GwinnettCounty.com

Incomplete, handwritten, or illegible applications will not be considered.

For questions or concerns, please contact **Jessica Stewart** at **770.822.8980**,
Jessica.Stewart@GwinnettCounty.com, or visit our website
www.GwinnettCommunityOutreach.com.