

# Iowa Youth Congress Application 2017-2018



**Applications submitted by May 1, 2017 receive priority consideration**  
**All applications due on June 12, 2017**



## IOWA YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

### **DESCRIPTION:**

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

IYC brings students from across the state to discuss issues that affect youth. Members will be separated into regions based on geographical location. Each region, based on their interests and goals, will focus on civic engagement, lobby efforts, and advocacy activities in their community and around the state of Iowa.

### **ELIGIBILITY & APPLICATION PROCESS:**

Iowa Youth Congress models itself after the Iowa House of Representatives and accepts up to 100 high school participants. The application process for Iowa Youth Congress has two steps. The first step is to fill out the application and send it in. The second step will only be necessary if there are more than 100 applicants. In that case, you will be asked to participate in an interview over the phone. The questions for this interview will be sent to you once you apply, but will only be necessary if more than 100 students apply. This interview will help IYC select the students who will participate in the current year and determine those who will be listed as alternates, who will then get priority for next year's IYC.

Members will be separated into regions across Iowa, and each region will have a Regional Officer. There will be additional questions & expectations on this application for anyone interested in becoming a Regional Officer. Anyone is welcome to apply to be a Regional Officer in their respective area!

### **EXPECTATIONS & COMMITMENTS FOR IYC MEMBERS:**

- Members are expected to participate for the full year and attend all events, unless excused because attending the meeting would have caused undue hardship.
- All regional officers are expected to facilitate and attend all meetings, unless excused.
- While participating in the Mock Congress event, and other formal events, students will follow a business professional dress code. 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 event. If **any** rules are broken that member may be asked to leave the event and may be excused from the IYC for the remainder of their term.
- Each IYC member will participate in **two service projects and 40 volunteer hours** during their term.

- Each IYC member will participate in **one local and one state advocacy initiative** during their term. When completed, members will give a presentation during a regional meeting concerning their initiative activities.
- Each member will be expected to attend **regional monthly calls** with their respective regions.
- Youth will be expected to **attend all regional quarterly IYC meetings**, and will be encouraged to attend any additional relevant opportunities for civic engagement (local town hall meetings, city council meetings, etc.) or youth development (trainings, conferences, etc.) that may present themselves.
  - 1st Quarterly Regional Meeting (3-4 hours): Orientation/Youth Issues
  - 2nd Quarterly Regional Meeting: 1-Day Mock Congress Event (Iowa State Capitol)
  - 3rd Quarterly Regional Meeting (3-4 hours): Community Advocacy & Service Projects
  - 4th Quarterly Regional Meeting (2-3 hours): Present Service Projects & Future Plans
- Additionally, Regional Officers are required to attend the Day on the Hill Event during Iowa's legislative session. Other members are encouraged to attend in order to enhance lobbying skills, but it is not mandatory. The Day on the Hill Event will also be located at the Iowa State Capitol.

### **EXPECTATIONS FOR REGIONAL OFFICERS:**

In addition to the above member expectations, Regional Officers are expected to:

- Set realistic goals for his/her region in a timely manner at the beginning and through the progression of the term.
- Attend **bi-weekly conference calls** with all other officers and the IYC Coordinator to discuss congress wide activities, issues, and updates.
- Always keep members updated on current regional events, happenings, and progress throughout the year.
- Create and maintain partnerships with outside organizations in the pursuit of accomplishing committee goals.
- Must **attend the Day on the Hill Event** during Iowa's legislative session to lobby and advocate for any position statements developed by your region.

## Iowa Youth Congress Application Contact Information

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**Please print this page and fill out the following legibly with an ink pen.** If you have any questions while completing this application contact Brianne Potts, IYC Coordinator, at [brianne.potts@iowa.gov](mailto:brianne.potts@iowa.gov) or 515-725-2836.

The following questions are for all youth applying to be a member of IYC.

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

Grade (2017-2018): \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: Iowa Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

How long have you lived in Iowa? \_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide your signature to verify the above information given is accurate.**

Signature	Date
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**Please have your parent/guardian provide their signature to verify that you have their permission to participate in the Iowa Youth Congress from 2017-2018.**

Signature	Date
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The Iowa Code (216A.140.8.b) states that the Iowa Department of Human Rights shall “*strive to maintain a diverse council membership and shall take into consideration race, ethnicity, disabilities, gender, and geographic location of residence of the applicants*”. To facilitate these efforts, you are provided with the opportunity to indicate the following optional information below.

Gender:

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Race and/or Ethnicity:

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Please note any reasonable accommodations that you may need to participate in IYC meetings or events so that we can make adequate arrangements and assure accessibility.

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Do you have access to transportation? If so, what type?

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How did you hear about IYC?

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## Iowa Youth Congress Application

**Please complete typed narrative responses to the following questions within a separate document. To apply, submit the narrative document along with the Application Cover Page. Applications received by May 1, 2017 will receive priority consideration. All final applications must be submitted by June 12, 2017. Recommended response length is one to two paragraphs per question.**

1. Have you been involved with IYC in the past? If yes, explain.
2. Please explain your involvement in any formalized organization(s) within your community or school. What is the purpose of the organization(s)? If selected for IYC, what would you do to formally connect IYC issues to the organization with which you are currently involved?
3. What is your volunteering experience and what are your goals for service as a Iowa Youth Congress member?
4. IYC is a group of young people who will serve as a voice for *all* youth throughout the state. How are you a representative of Iowa's youth?
5. Conversely, what sets you apart from other youth in Iowa and/or your community? How have these differences helped you achieve your goals?
6. Describe your familiarity with Iowa's state government.
7. What is one action that you believe IYC should take to improve the lives of youth in Iowa?
8. If selected as a member, you may be asked to speak to a local coalition, school board, city council, legislators, or other entities about IYC. Have you spoken to any of these entities (or any similar) in the past? If so, please list them.

**The following questions should only be answered by those applying to be a Regional Officer. Recommended response length is one to two paragraphs per question.**

1. The regional officers must exhibit strong leadership qualities. Please, give at least one example of how you have successfully exhibited leadership skills.
2. Please give an example of how you have demonstrated professional and effective communication in the past.
3. How would you motivate and encourage active participation among the members in your region?
4. What does the term 'commitment' mean to you? Why is it important to stay committed to a goal?
5. Please list any extracurricular activities you are involved in. If appointed to a Regional Officer position, how will you manage your time between school work, extracurricular activities, and the Iowa Youth Congress?

**Submit application materials via one of these methods:**

**Postal Mail:**

Iowa Youth Congress  
Department of Human Rights  
Lucas State Building, 2nd Floor  
321 East 12th Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319

**Email:**

[brianne.potts@iowa.gov](mailto:brianne.potts@iowa.gov)

Please scan the completed materials and attach them to the email

**Fax:**

(515)-242-6119