

Valparaiso Mayor's Youth Council Application Packet 2021-2022



Mayor Murphy seeks applicants to serve on the inaugural Valparaiso Mayor's Youth Council (Council) during the 2021-2022 school year. This 12–15-member Council will represent youth committed to building a better Valparaiso through civic participation. Valparaiso area students entering the 11th grade during the upcoming school year are eligible to apply. Students are asked to submit applications by **May 31**.

The mission of the Council is to offer students an opportunity to:

- interact with elected and appointed city officials;
- learn more about local government and civic participation;
- build leadership skills; and
- participate in special volunteer projects as requested by the Mayor.

What qualities are we looking for?

- Incoming 11th grade students living or attending school in Valparaiso.
- Commitment to participate in activities with the Council throughout the school year, including a Saturday morning retreat, 90-minute monthly meetings and special volunteer opportunities.
- Ambition to serve the Valparaiso community and work well on a team.
- Ability to participate in civil conversations and understand both sides of an issue.

Participants will have access to:

- opportunities to network and build relationships with city leaders;
- a Council Certificate that can be used for college applications and career advancement; and
- enhanced skills and knowledge to serve the community beyond the program.

The Council will kick off with a swearing in ceremony at the August 23 City Council meeting and a special Saturday retreat on August 28. Regular meetings will be held in the evening on the second Wednesday of each month September through April in various locations throughout the city. Additional volunteer opportunities will be offered throughout the school year. Applicants **MUST** participate in the opening retreat and submit written notice if they are unable to attend any regular meetings.

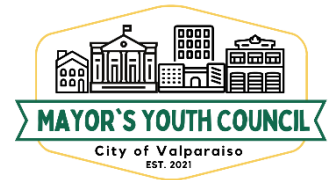
Upon receiving your application, it will be sent to Mayor Murphy and the 2021-2022 selection committee. The selection committee will determine the candidates to interview and notify all applicants of their status by July 1.

Application Requirements Include:

1. Application Form
2. Short Answer Questions
3. Student and Parent Commitment Agreement

All required application materials must be submitted by May 31, 2021 and emailed to mclifton@valpo.us or dropped off at Valparaiso City Hall, 166 W. Lincolnway. For questions, please contact Maggie Clifton, Community Engagement Director, at mclifton@valpo.us or 219-462-1161.

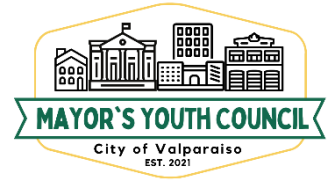
**Valparaiso Mayor's Youth Council
2021-2022 Schedule**



Date	Time	Topic
Monday, August 23*	5:30pm – 6:30pm	Swearing in Ceremony at City Council Meeting
Saturday, August 28	9:00am – 2:00pm	Saturday Opening Retreat – Local Government 101
Wednesday, September 8	6:00pm – 7:30pm	Leadership Development
Wednesday, October 13	6:00pm – 7:30pm	Assessing Community Needs
Wednesday, November 10	6:00pm – 7:30pm	Public Safety
Wednesday, December 8	6:00pm – 7:30pm	Community Partnerships
Wednesday, January 12	6:00pm – 7:30pm	Setting Goals and Planning
Wednesday, February 9	6:00pm – 7:30pm	Valpo Parks
Wednesday, March 9	6:00pm – 7:30pm	Economic Development and Neighborhood Involvement
Wednesday, April 13	6:00pm – 7:30pm	Advocacy 101 and Program Evaluations
Monday, May 9* OR Thursday, May 19*	6:00pm-7:00pm	Presentations at City Council and School Board Meetings

*Dress code professional/business casual.
Dress code to be appropriate for workplace at all sessions.

Valparaiso Mayor's Youth Council 2021-2022 Application Form



Please clearly write your responses in ink.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ 2021-2022 School Year Grade: _____

School Attending: _____

Home Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Applicant Cell Phone #: _____ Email Address: _____

T-Shirt Size (adult sizes): _____

Please list your anticipated commitments outside of school and homework for the 2021-2022 school year (include clubs, jobs, sports, etc.):

Activity: _____ Hours/Week: _____

Activity: _____ Hours/Week: _____

Activity: _____ Hours/Week: _____

Activity: _____ Hours/Week: _____

I initiated interest in this program: YES NO

I was asked to apply for this program: YES NO If yes, by whom? _____

Do you have a license and vehicle that you will drive next year? YES NO

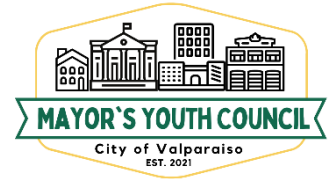
If not, are you able to secure transportation to meetings? YES NO

The VMYC does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, political affiliation or disability. The following information is not required. It is requested to facilitate our goal of assembling a diverse group. Omitting this information will not affect your application.

Race or ethnic group: _____ Gender Identity: _____

Valparaiso Mayor's Youth Council

2021-2022 Application Short Answer Questions



Please provide concise answers to the following questions in a typed document. Responses should be no more than 200 words per question.

1. Why do you want to be a member of the Valparaiso Mayor's Youth Council? What do you hope to learn or experience?
2. What is one quality you pride yourself on and what will this contribute to the Council?
3. Tell us about a time you worked with a group to get something done. What role did you play?
4. What have you done to give back to the Valparaiso community and in what areas do you see a need for improvement?
5. What other activities are you involved in and how do you plan to prioritize participation on the Council?

Valparaiso Mayor's Youth Council 2021-2022 Commitment Agreement



I recognize that attendance and participation are essential to achieve the objectives of the Valparaiso Mayor's Youth Council.

Council members must abide by the following code of conduct:

- Be respectful of themselves and others.
- Be professional, accepting and open-minded.
- Listen and consider other people's ideas and feelings – be a team player.
- Be present, mindful and engaged.
- Bring a positive attitude to all meetings and activities.
- Communicate openly and honestly with each other, program leaders and elected officials.

I have read and understand the commitment required if I am selected as a member of the Valparaiso Mayor's Youth Council.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment

I recognize that _____ is submitting an application to serve on the Valparaiso Mayor's Youth Council. I support my child's participation in the Council and understand that attendance is of high importance. I also give permission for the City to share my child's name and use photographs in promotional materials for the Council.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Emergency Cell Phone #: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____