



April 3, 2024

Dear Youth Leader,

Hello! As members of the Clark County Youth Commission, we are **seeking youth from all walks of life to join us**. Our board consists of 30 youth from throughout Clark County who work closely with the Clark County Council, county departments and community organizations to:

- **Advise and make recommendations** about the work these groups do that affects our community. In the past, the county councilors have asked us to research *workplace stress, youth happiness, youth violence prevention and community livability*.
- **Identify issues and concerns of youth** and take action. Our group helps to target key issues within the community, and develop projects and recommendations that support or raise awareness of those issues.
- **Provide leadership and community participation opportunities for youth**. We offer our members fun and intensive leadership opportunities, beginning with a retreat each summer and continuing throughout the year. We also strive to create opportunities for youth throughout Clark County.
- **Educate about how to build youth-adult partnerships**. We share our successful experiences working with adult community groups to forge partnerships that ensure all voices are valued.

Between now and **April 30**, we are actively recruiting for Youth Commission members. We continuously strive to be more representative of the diversity of youth living in our county.

Currently, **we are accepting applications to fill at least 10 vacancies throughout Clark County**:

- All open positions are available for youth who live in Clark County.
- New Leader positions are available for youth with no previous leadership experience.
- We have some positions open to students living within the geographical boundaries of specific school districts.

Please feel free to use the enclosed materials and information to spread the word about the Youth Commission to youth in your school or community.

We appreciate your interest and want to let you know we are here to help. Please contact our program coordinator, Elizabeth Houston-Hill, at 564.397.5133 or Elizabeth.Hill@clark.wa.gov if you have any questions or need additional materials.

Thank you for your help and time,

The Clark County Youth Commission

CLARK COUNTY



COMMISSION



Clark County Youth Commission

Who are we?

We are a group of 30 youth, ages 11-19 (grades 6 and above). Eighteen positions are distributed across specific school district boundaries to ensure broad geographic representation, ten youth are at-large (meaning they can come from anywhere in the county), and two youth are new leaders. Members serve for a one-year term, but can recommit to serve multiple terms.

What do we do?

We actively serve as a voice for the youth in Clark County.

- We advise and make recommendations to the Clark County Council, county departments and community organizations about the work they do that relates to and affects youth.
- We identify issues and concerns important to youth, and take action on these issues and concerns.
- We educate the community about how to build strong youth-adult partnerships.
- We provide leadership opportunities for youth.

So you want to become a member?

To apply for a position on the Youth Commission, you need to complete an application and participate in an interview. But before you do, it's important to know what's expected of our members so you can make sure you have the time and make sure it is right for you!

An active Youth Commission member:

- Works on Youth Commission projects, assignments and subcommittees. We have special projects and assignments requiring time outside of regular meetings. We need each other's help to get work done. **We require 6-12 hours of work each month.**
- Participates in the meetings by *voicing ideas and opinions, and being prepared*. We know it takes time for some people to feel comfortable doing these kinds of things, so if you think you would like to but are not quite sure if you can, apply and we'll see if we can help you get there.
- Is a resource to the Youth Commission. Members *contribute their skills and strengths* to help get the work done.
- Represents the Youth Commission in the community and at their school. This could mean anything from addressing community groups about our work to getting information to and from students and teachers.
- Attends meetings, both regular and other, as agreed to and as scheduled. The regular meetings are on the **first and third Thursday of each month from 6:45 to 8:45 pm, September through June**. Special projects, assignments, and subcommittee work adds another 2-8 hours per month.

All applicants must be available for an in-person interview on May 9, May 10, or May 11 and, if selected, attend a mandatory overnight retreat August 13-15.

Clark County Youth Commission

APPLICATION

Please complete and email this application to Elizabeth Houston-Hill at elizabeth.hill@clark.wa.gov no later than **Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at 11:59 pm**. If you do not receive email verification within three business days, or if you'd like to confirm the Youth Commission received your application on time, please call Elizabeth at 564.397.5133. If you need more space, please feel free to attach additional sheets of paper to this form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____ Other (Specify) _____

Best time of day to call: _____ Best number to call first: _____

Email: _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

How long have you lived in Clark County? (must live in Clark County, WA) _____

Have you applied for the Youth Commission before? (If yes, what year?) _____

What school (if any) are you attending next year? _____

What grade are you entering next year? _____ Are you employed? _____

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

Race/Ethnicity: _____ Gender: _____

How do you pronounce your name? _____

1. Name three things you are good at or do the best.

2. Describe yourself to somebody who has never met you in 10 words or less.

3. What is your favorite thing to do in your spare time?

4. If you have a lot of other commitments (work, after-school activities, sports, etc.), how will you make time for Youth Commission?

5. If you could improve one thing about Clark County, what would it be?

6. Which do you prefer, one-on-one conversations or group discussions? Why?

7. What do you wish was taught in school? Why?

8. Describe responsibilities you have (or had) in your school, community, family or other places. (Hint: there is no wrong answer to this.)

9. What is an obstacle, challenge or struggle you have had to overcome? How did you do it?

10. Tell us something interesting about your background. (This could be where you grew up, your culture, your family life, your school experiences, an activity you've spent a lot of time doing, etc.)

11. Under what circumstances do you work the best?

12. How has your school experience affected you?

13. CHOOSE **ONE** OF THE THREE QUESTIONS BELOW AND ANSWER IN THE SPACE PROVIDED. You may choose to write, draw, or find a different way to express your answer.

- How do you spend a happy day?
- You can pick one superpower. What do you pick? What do you do with it?
- If you were to invent a new kind of sport, what would it be? What would the basic rules be?

14. CHOOSE **ONE** OF THE THREE QUESTIONS BELOW AND ANSWER IN THE SPACE PROVIDED. You may choose to write, draw, or find a different way to express your answer.

- What is the story of you?
- What is something people might be surprised to learn about you?
- What is one belief or value that is important to you?

15. What else would you like us to know about you?

If I am offered a position, I am able to attend the overnight orientation retreat, August 13-15. (This retreat is MANDATORY and provided at no cost to you.)

If I am offered a position, I anticipate being able to attend the overnight mid-term retreat, tentatively scheduled for March 21-23, 2025. (This retreat is STRONGLY ENCOURAGED and provided at no cost to you.)

If I am offered a position, I am available to attend Youth Commission meetings on the first and third Thursday of each month during the next school year (September through June). These meetings will be in person.

If I am offered a position, I am available 2-8 hours per month outside of Youth Commission meetings for special projects, assignments, and subcommittee work. These meetings may be in person or via web conference.

If I am offered a position, I agree to meet with the program coordinator 2-3 times a year to discuss my strengths and goals. These meetings may be in person or via web conference.

If invited to an interview, which dates work for you? Check all that apply. **Interview times are not guaranteed and may change.**

I am available to be interviewed on the evening of Thursday, May 9.

I am available to be interviewed on the evening of Friday, May 10.

I am available to be interviewed on the morning or afternoon of Saturday, May 11.

Are there any reasonable accommodations we can provide to help you feel comfortable, such as an interpreter, a quiet room or space between chairs? If so, please describe.

Snacks will be provided during the interview. Please list any food restrictions, allergies, or preferences you may have:

How did you hear about this opportunity? _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

DEADLINE: Tuesday, April 30 at 11:59 pm.

We are currently only accepting applications by email or Google Forms. **Please email your application to Elizabeth Houston-Hill at elizabeth.hill@clark.wa.gov.** If you do not receive email verification within three business days, or if you'd like to confirm the Youth Commission received your application on time, please call Elizabeth at 564.397.5133. If you need more space, please feel free to attach additional sheets of paper to this form.

Questions? Please contact our program coordinator, Elizabeth Houston-Hill, at 564.397.5133 or Elizabeth.Hill@clark.wa.gov.



For other formats, contact
the Clark County ADA Office

Voice 564.397.2322
Fax 360.397.6165

Relay 711 or 800.833.6388
Email ADA@clark.wa.gov