

**CLARK COUNTY**  
  
**COMMISSION**

June 3, 2015

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 is made up of 30 youth from throughout Clark County who work closely with the Board of Clark County Councilors, county departments, and community organizations to:

- Advise and make recommendations about the work these groups do that has an impact on 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.

***WE ARE SEEKING YOUTH FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO JOIN THIS EFFORT, AND WE NEED YOUR HELP.***

Between now and **June 16, 2015** we are actively recruiting for Youth Commission members. The Youth Commission is continuously striving to be more representative of the diversity of youth that live within our county.

Currently, we are accepting applications to fill these vacancies:

- At-large positions representing any part of Clark County.
- Positions from Hockinson, Washougal, La Center, and Woodland School Districts (Note: the Woodland applicants must come from the part of Woodland that is within Clark County.)
- Positions for youth with no previous leadership experience.

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 help and want to let you know we are also here to help; please call us if you have any questions or need additional materials. The best way to contact us is by calling or emailing Elizabeth Hill at (360) 397-2130, ext. 5133, or [elizabeth.hill@clark.wa.gov](mailto:elizabeth.hill@clark.wa.gov).

Thank you for your help and time,

***The Clark County Youth Commission***

# Clark County Youth Commission

## *Who are we?*

The Clark County Youth Commission is a group of 30 youth ranging in ages from 11-19. Eighteen youth represent middle and high school students from each of the nine school districts in Clark County, ten of the youth are 'at-large', and two of the youth are new leaders. Members serve for a one-year term, but can recommit to serve multiple terms.

## *What do we do?*

*The Youth Commission actively serves as a voice for the youth in Clark County.*

- We advise and make recommendations to the Board of Clark County Councilors, county departments, and community organizations about the work they do that relates to and has an impact on 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 that it is right for you! An active Youth Commission member:

- Works on Youth Commission projects, assignments and subcommittees. The Commission has special projects and assignments that require time outside of regular meetings. We need members' help to get work done. **The Youth Commission requires approximately 4-12 hours work each month.**
- Participates in the meetings by *voicing their 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 really 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 the Commission get the work done.
- Represents the Youth Commission in the community and at their school. This could mean anything from speaking to community groups about Commission 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 Thursdays each month from 6:45 – 8:45 PM September – June**. Special projects, assignments, and subcommittee work adds another 2-8 hours per month.

**All applicants must be available to interview on June 23 or June 24  
and to attend a mandatory overnight retreat August 18-20.**

# Clark County Youth Commission

## APPLICATION

Please complete and mail/fax to the address/number noted on the back of this form **no later than June 16, 2015**. If you need more space, please feel free to attach additional sheets of paper to this form. Thanks.

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? \_\_\_\_\_

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

What school (if any) are you entering next year? \_\_\_\_\_

What grade are you entering next year? \_\_\_\_\_ Are you employed? \_\_\_\_\_

### OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

Race/Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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3. What is your favorite thing to do in your spare time in non-school hours?

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# *Clark County Youth Commission*

## APPLICATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# *Clark County Youth Commission*

## APPLICATION

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.)

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11. Under what circumstances do you work the best?

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12. How has your school experience affected you?

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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 super power. 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?

# Clark County Youth Commission

## APPLICATION

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?

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- I am able to attend the retreat August 18-20, 2015. (If we are able to offer you a position on the Youth Commission this retreat is MANDATORY)
- During next school year (September – June) I am available to attend the Youth Commission meetings on the first and third Thursday of each month if I am offered a position.

If you are invited for an interview please indicate your first and second choice of interview times.

- I would prefer to be interviewed on Tuesday, June 23 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- I would prefer to be interviewed on Wednesday, June 24 from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

Please **mail** this application by **June 16, 2015** to:  
Clark County  
Dept of Community Services  
PO Box 5000  
Vancouver, WA 98666-5000  
Attn: YOUTH COMMISSION

or bring this application by **June 16, 2015** to:  
Street Address: Clark County Youth House  
1012 Esther Street  
Vancouver, WA 98660

**Fax** to: 397-2164 (remember to **fax both sides**) We recommend you call to confirm we receive it.

**Questions:** Please contact Elizabeth Hill, program coordinator for the Youth Commission, at (360) 397-2130, ext. 5133 or at [elizabeth.hill@clark.wa.gov](mailto:elizabeth.hill@clark.wa.gov)