



Do you have an opinion about how this City makes decisions that affect you and your friends?

Join the San Francisco Youth Commission!

Application for 2011~2012 Term

Due Friday, April 22, 2011 at 6:00pm

San Francisco Youth Commission
City Hall, Room 345
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 554-6446
Fax: (415) 554-6140
Email: youthcom@sfgov.org

www.sfgov.org/yc

Please refer questions to:
Mario Yedidia, Youth Commission Director
Phone: (415) 554-6254
Email: mario.yedidia@sfgov.org



Basic Information

Who We Are:

The Youth Commission is a group of 17 San Franciscans between the ages of 12 and 23. Each member of the Board of Supervisors appoints one Youth Commissioner, and the Mayor appoints six more.



What We Do:

Our job, which was created by the voters of San Francisco and makes us accountable to the whole City, is to stand up for the needs of all young people in the policy and legislative debates at City Hall.

Whether it comes to MUNI, housing, education, juvenile justice or health and wellness, we serve as authentic advisors on youth issues to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor. (See the next page for some examples of our recent work.)

We read laws, talk to Supervisors and the Mayor Office, hold discussions with other young people in our communities, organize events and hearings, do research on policy and write resolutions.

How We Do It:

Youth Commissioners can influence government in a number of ways.

For example, the Youth Commission must consider any proposed law that would affect young people and decide whether or not the proposed law would be good for young people. Youth Commissioners then have opportunity to convince lawmakers to pass or reject the proposed law.

Also, Youth Commissioners can develop their own policies and laws relating to young people and try to convince the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to pass them.



When:

The Youth Commission is a very serious time commitment.

The commission has a minimum time requirement of 12 hours per month, spread out over 3 hours per week.

There are full commission meetings that you are required to attend at least twice a month. There are also at least three other kinds of meetings you must attend at least once a month: small committee meetings, meetings with members of the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor's Office, and meetings with young people outside of City Hall in various communities across the city.

Do I Need Previous Experience?

No! Anybody can be a Youth Commissioner!

The only requirements are that you live in San Francisco and be between the ages of 12 and 23 when you are appointed.

And: be passionate about youth and community issues—about the decisions the City makes that affect you and your friends!



Do I Get Paid?

No—the City Charter doesn't allow Youth Commissioners to be paid.

However, you can receive health care.



Recent Examples of the Youth Commission's Work

LGBTQ Sensitivity and Safety in Schools and Housing



12,000 free MUNI Fast Passes for low-income public school students

In February 2010, MUNI tried to raise the price of the Youth Fast Pass to \$30/month.

The Youth Commission, working closely with many community based organizations, convinced MUNI's Board of Directors that this was a horrible idea that they should abandon—because it would make MUNI too expensive for many young people.

The Youth Commission also worked for over a year—between February 2010 and March 2011—to get a discounted pass for low-income public school students. We wrote resolutions, convinced the Board of Supervisors and the Board of Education to pass similar pieces of legislation, persuaded MUNI to budget at least \$3 million for this program, and held a public hearing in City Hall when the whole thing seemed stalled. And on March 1, 2011, the program was finally approved.

Now, 12,000 free fast passes are available each month in April, May and June of 2011!

We are working to ensure this program continues next year. Ask us about how to apply for a pass!

Starting with his own experiences as a queer high school student, in 2009 a Youth Commissioner wrote a resolution calling on the School District to take major steps to fight homophobia in the schools.

After lots of advocacy, in February of 2010 the Board of Education passed a nearly identical resolution—and this year the District is offering its first-ever LGBTQ Studies class and committing more resources to preventing homophobia.

In the last few months, the Youth Commission held a public hearing and has been conducting focus groups with queer homeless youth, which have highlighted the need for queer-sensitive staff in shelter and housing for LGBTQQ homeless youth.



Ever Been Locked Up? Confused about the Rules?

In the fall of 2009, the Youth Commission, working in collaboration with other City departments, put out a simple, youth-friendly guide to understanding the juvenile justice system for youth who are arrested and detained.

The Youth Commission also founded a workshop at the Youth Guidance Center (Juvenile Hall), on the first Saturday of each month, where youth who are being released—and their parents—learn the rules of probation.





How to Apply

The application process and timeline for the 2011-2012 term are as follows:

1. Fill out the attached application (i.e., personal information, essay questions and “applicant agreement”) and turn it in to the Youth Commission (by fax, email, regular mail or in person). **The application is due Friday, April 22, 2011 at 6:00pm. Late applications will not be accepted.**
2. Come in for an interview with Youth Commission staff **between May 2 and May 13. Exact dates and times will be announced after you turn in your application.**
3. The Board of Supervisors and the Mayor’s Office might ask you to come in and do their own interviews. You are welcome to contact those offices yourself! Just ask us how.
4. The Youth Commission staff makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor Office of who to appoint to the commission. **Ultimately, the members of the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor choose who to appoint to the Youth Commission. We hope the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors make their appointments by June 1, 2011.**

The 2011-2012 Youth Commission term begins at the Beginning of the Year Retreat on August 26, 27 and 28 2011.

*****IMPORTANT*****

PLEASE NOTE:

The Youth Commission is a serious time commitment.

If appointed, in addition to the required 12 hours per month (3 hours per week) described on the “Basic Information” page above you are required:

(1) to attend a 3 day retreat August 26, 27 and 28—all 3 days;

(2) to attend an additional full day retreat during a weekend in September or October (exact date TBD); AND

(3) to attend all of a full, two-day “mid year” retreat Saturday and Sunday, January 14 and January 15, 2012.



Personal Information

Name _____

Address _____

Zip Code _____

Email _____

Cell Phone _____

Home Phone _____

Birthday _____ Age _____

Ethnicity/Nationality/Race (Optional) _____

Languages spoken (Optional) _____

Sexual orientation (Optional) _____

Gender identity (Optional) _____

If you are or will be in school, what school will you attend in the fall of 2011?

Please list all other schools you have gone to:

What communities do you feel connected to?

(Examples: Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, Disabled, Homeless, Teen Parent, Low-Income, Irish American)

Remember: you are not limited to these choices...feel free to add your own!



Essay Questions

1. Why do you want to be a Youth Commissioner?
2. What are some issues that affect you or your community?
How would you go about fixing these issues?
3. If you had a meeting with the Mayor or a member of the Board of Supervisors tomorrow, what would you talk about with them and advise them on?
4. What are some of your past accomplishments that you are proud of?
5. The Youth Commission requires a commitment of at least 12 hours a month. In order to truly make an impact, it is often necessary to go beyond that minimum commitment. What other commitments do you have during the school year and are you prepared to meet that minimum requirement?
6. Please provide a letter of recommendation—a few paragraphs are sufficient—from someone not in your family (for example, a teacher, counselor, probation officer, etc.) regarding your work. **THIS IS OPTIONAL.** If you can't get or don't want to submit a letter of recommendation, please explain why.



Applicant Agreement

Please initial next to the statement(s) you agree with.

I, _____, certify that:
(name)

_____ The information provided in this application is accurate and I have made every attempt to answer all questions truthfully and to the fullest extent possible.

_____ I have reviewed the application and the required dates for the 2011-2012 Youth Commission term and understand that the 12 hour a month requirement is mandatory.

_____ I understand that this year's Beginning of the Year Orientation Retreat will be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 26, 27 and 28, 2011, and that my attendance is required on *all* days. I also understand that there will be additional days of training, including a full day during a weekend in September (exact date TBA) and on Saturday and Sunday, January 14 and 15, 2012—and that all of these days are required.

Print Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Submit application in person, by fax, regular mail, email or carrier pigeon to:

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