



2016-2017 Hanover Youth Service Council Application & Information Sheet

What is the Hanover Youth Service Council?

The Hanover Youth Service Council (HYSC) is a youth-led countywide organization consisting of 35 middle and high school students selected for their dedication to service and leadership. HYSC members promote service and address needs within Hanover County and beyond by planning and conducting various monthly service projects. Issue areas include animal welfare, needs of seniors, the environment, community building, poverty and more. Since 1998, HYSC members have volunteered more than 15,000 hours in the community. The HYSC is sponsored by the Hanover County Department of Community Resources.

Who can apply for HYSC?

Are you interested in creating change, serving your community and inspiring others through volunteerism? Any rising 7th grade through 12th grade student who currently resides in Hanover and/or attends a Hanover school is eligible to apply.

What is the commitment?

Serving on the Hanover Youth Service Council requires a significant time commitment. Please consider how you will balance your current obligations with the responsibilities that come with being a Council member. Members are expected to attend at least nine of the twelve monthly meetings and participate in at least 50 hours of service per year. Meetings are scheduled the first Monday of each month from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Project dates change month to month. Members are also highly encouraged to develop and lead their own service project during their time on the Council.

How are applications reviewed?

The Council currently has 9 membership openings available. The advisor to HYSC will assign each application a number and remove any obvious identifying information from the application. Applications are then blindly screened and scored using a rubric by a panel of HYSC members. Middle school and high school students will be scored separately. Applicants who interviewed with the Council but were not selected last year will be awarded 5 additional points. Responses that thoroughly and directly address the points in the question, are well-organized, elaborate and effectively communicate with the panel members will score the most points.

How are new members selected?

The highest scoring applicants will be invited to the Group Interview and Service Project. Candidates will be interviewed individually and will perform a service project together. All candidates must attend the interview and service project to be considered for the Council. Please make note of the following dates when determining your ability to participate on the Council. Once selected, as long as you are a member in good standing, your membership is automatically renewed each school year.

Application Deadline: Friday, April 15, 2016 (must be postmarked or received by)	Notification of selection for Group Interview will be mailed by: By Thursday, April 29, 2016
Group Interview/Information meeting for prospective candidates: Saturday, May 14, 2016 from 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.	Final notification of candidates will be mailed by: By Friday, May 27, 2016
First meeting: Monday, July 11, 2016 from 7:30-8:30 p.m.	Team building activity for new and current members: July-TBD

Questions?

Contact David Duck, Youth Service Specialist with the Hanover County Department of Community Resources, at 365-4180 or djduck@hanovercounty.gov with questions regarding the application.



Membership Application

General Information

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Home Address: _____

Email: _____ Home Phone: _____

School: _____ Year/Grade in School: _____

Do you drive? _____ If no, how will you be able get to meetings and projects? _____

How did you hear about HYSC? _____

Have you applied in the past? If yes, how many times? _____

Discussion Questions *(Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper)*

1. Why do you want to be a member of HYSC? How do you expect to contribute to the Council and how would you like to benefit from your membership?
2. Please select a cause or issue that you care about. In your response, identify the issue, provide background information about the issue area, and describe how HYSC could address that issue through a tangible service project.
3. What are your best qualities? What do you value most about yourself as a family member, friend, student, citizen and so on? How do you demonstrate these qualities in your everyday life?
4. What are the qualities of an effective leader? Please name one leader who you admire. Tell us about his/her contributions and why you admire that person.

Letters of Recommendation

Each applicant must provide two (2) letters of recommendation with their application. These recommendation letters can come from any ADULT, other than a relative, who has worked with the applicant on a one-on-one basis. Applicants are responsible for including the recommendation letters in the application packet.

Verification

Applicant: I verify that the information in the above application is correct. I have read and understand the attached Information Sheet about the Hanover Youth Service Council, and I am interested in proceeding further in the selection process. Parent/Guardian: I understand that my child is applying for this program and I agree to allow my child to participate if he/she is selected. Note: If your child is selected for an interview, an emergency medical form, photo release form and additional parent consent form will be provided to parents for signature.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Ready to Submit Your Application?

Be sure to include the following in your application packet:

- Application Form (with all questions answered)
- Two Letters of Recommendation
- Signed Verification

Send completed packets to:

Hanover Youth Service Council
New Membership Selection Committee
Hanover County Department of Community Resources
12310 Washington Highway
Ashland, VA 23005

Fax: 804-365-4299

Email to David Duck: djduck@hanovercountry.gov

****All applications must be postmarked or received by Friday, April 15, 2016****