



2022-2023 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 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. The HYSC is sponsored by the Hanover County Department of Community Resources.

Who should apply for HYSC?

Are you interested in creating change, serving your community and inspiring others through volunteerism? Any rising 7th grade through 10th grade student who currently resides in Hanover and/or attends a Hanover school is eligible to apply. We are looking for at least two (2) youth representatives from each middle and high school. In addition, we would like to see community representatives apply from private and home school programs. Our goal is to engage youth from the entire county with diverse experiences and backgrounds.

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 monthly meetings and participate in at least 50 hours of service per year. Meetings are scheduled the first Monday of each month from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Project dates change from 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 10 membership openings available. Applications are screened and scored by the New Membership Selection Committee and then applicants are ranked using rubric totals. Middle school and high school students will be scored separately. 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 interview for a Hanover Youth Service Council spot. Candidates will be interviewed individually, create an idea for a future service project and visit stations to learn more about the HYSC experience from seasoned members. All candidates must attend the interview and plan a 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 may be renewed each school year.

Application Deadline: Monday, May 23, 2022 (must be received by 5:00pm)	Notification of selection for Panel Interview will be emailed by: Friday, May 27, 2022
Interviews will be scheduled: Saturday, June 5, 2022 from 9:30am – 12pm Or as an applicant may need June 7th – 8th	Final notification of candidates will be emailed by: Friday, June 24, 2022
First meeting: Monday, July 11, 2022 from 7:00-8:00 p.m.	Team building activity for new and current members: July-TBD

Questions?

Contact Debbie Preston with the Hanover County Department of Community Resources, at 365-4300 or DA Preston@hanovercounty.gov with questions regarding the application.



Membership Application

General Information

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Home Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Parent Email: _____ Parent Phone: _____

School: _____ Year/Grade in School: _____ Graduation Year: _____

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 qualities do you value most about yourself? How do you demonstrate these qualities in your everyday life as a family member, friend, student, citizen and so on?
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 one (1) nomination letter and one (1) letter of recommendation with their application. These letters may be written by any ADULT, other than a relative, who can explain and validate your leadership potential and passion for community service. Applicants are responsible for including both letters in the application packet.

In a letter of recommendation, the writer knows the applicant well enough to evaluate their abilities. A letter of recommendation is generally requested by the candidate for a particular reason. The writer details the applicants accomplishments and skills that makes them a strong contender. The letter is written based on the writer's personal experience with this youth. Also, this type of letter is addressed to a specific recipient. A letter of recommendation is stronger than a reference because the writer is actually recommending you for a position.

A reference letter is more general in nature. It is an overall assessment of the applicant's characteristics, knowledge, and skills. Context of how the writer knows the individual is included, such as, "I was Clara's counselor at camp." This letter merely references that the writer knows you and confirms basic facts about you.

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.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

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.

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)

One Nomination Letter and One Letter 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 DAPreston@hanovercounty.gov