



## HOW TO APPLY

Applications for appointment to the NYL are available at: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/NYL/>.

You may submit your application by email or fax. Your application must include:

- Completed and signed application form, including the short-answer essays; and
- One letter of recommendation.

Deadline: Check the NYL's website for the application deadline details.

If you have any questions concerning the application process, please contact the NYL Program Facilitator in the Research Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau at [info@youthleg.state.nv.us](mailto:info@youthleg.state.nv.us).

## PROGRAM BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Connecting with peers across the state;
- Representing Nevada youth in local and state policy-making;
- Engaging with state legislators and other elected officials;
- Developing legislation that is processed by state lawmakers;
- Participating in one-of-a-kind leadership trainings and activities;
- Accessing opportunities through NYL scholarships; and
- Continuing peer relationship building through the NYL alumni network.

## NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

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Rev. 12/6/19

# NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

(NYL)



*Nevada Revised Statutes 219A.130*

***The Student Voice in  
State Government***

November 2019

## THE NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

The Nevada Youth Legislature is a two-year program that gives high school students an opportunity to learn about representative government and take an active role in the legislative process. This includes presenting one bill per term to the Nevada Legislature on an issue important to Nevada youth. Interested students may submit an application for the Senate District in which they live or attend high school. Each of Nevada's 21 Senators then appoints a Youth Legislator to represent his or her Senate District.

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**Term:** *Two years*

Each term begins on June 1 and ends on May 31 of odd-numbered years. Members elect a chair and vice chair, who serve for one-year terms.

#### **Mandatory Meetings and Trainings:**

*Twelve required meetings/trainings during the two-year term*

The program includes a two-day training in Carson City in August and a one-day training in Las Vegas, as well as half-day meetings/training sessions during each school year. Trainings prepare Youth Legislators for: connecting with constituents; message accountability; honing their listening, presentation, and negotiation skills; and developing a bill to be considered by the Nevada Legislature during the upcoming session. Most meetings/trainings are held in the afternoon during the week and may require missing afternoon classes or school activities.

#### **Individual Assignments:**

*Nine assignments during the two-year term*

Youth Legislators:

- Create written plans for organizing and activating District Youth Advisory Council (DYAC) and town hall meetings;
- Establish a DYAC and appoint student members from high schools in their Senate District and hold at least one DYAC meeting with these student representatives;
- Conduct at least one town hall meeting to gain insight into issues important to youth;
- Prepare for possible communications opportunities by writing three questions they might be asked and their answers to these queries;
- Testify before at least one public decision making body;
- Develop a Bill Draft Request proposal for consideration by the NYL; and
- Write an outreach letter with the purpose of recruiting NYL members for the next term.

#### **Attendance/Assignment Requirements:**

Youth Legislators must attend all mandatory meetings/trainings, activities, or event days, unless excused. Youth Legislators with three unexcused absences or activity credits (as calculated below) must be released from the program, as required by *Nevada Revised Statutes 219A.150*.

- Missed assignment = ½ activity credit
- Missed meeting or training day = 1 absence



## HISTORY OF THE NEVADA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

The NYL was created in 2007 by Senate Bill 247. The program was established to give students a voice in state policy-making and allow them to influence issues that are important to Nevada youth.

The NYL Board was created in 2011 by Senate Bill 237 in order to oversee the policies, practices, and finances of the NYL.

The NYL has presented several bills to the Nevada Legislature. Below are brief descriptions of two of these bills, submitted by the NYL, which were passed by the Legislature:

1. Senate Bill 464 (2015): Revises provisions relating to possession of an alcoholic beverage by persons less than 21 years of age.
2. Senate Bill 14 (2011): Requires the State Board of Education to develop a model curriculum for English language arts and mathematics.