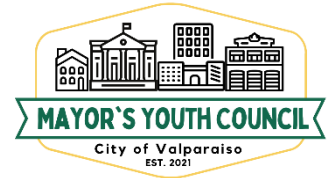


# Valparaiso Mayor's Youth Council

## Application Packet 2023-2024



Mayor Murphy seeks applicants to serve on the Valparaiso Mayor's Youth Council (Council) during the 2023-2024 school year. This 15-20-member Council will represent youth committed to building a better Valparaiso through civic participation. Valparaiso area students entering the 11<sup>th</sup> grade during the upcoming school year are eligible to apply. Students are asked to submit applications by **May 31**.

### The mission of the Council is to offer students an opportunity to:

- interact with elected and appointed city officials;
- learn more about local government and civic participation;
- build leadership skills; and
- participate in special volunteer projects as requested by the Mayor.

### What qualities are we looking for?

- Incoming 11<sup>th</sup> grade students living or attending school in Valparaiso.
- Commitment to participate in activities with the Council throughout the school year, including a Saturday morning retreat, 2-hour monthly meetings and special volunteer opportunities.
- Ambition to serve the Valparaiso community and work well on a team.
- Ability to participate in civil conversations and understand both sides of an issue.

### Participants will have access to:

- opportunities to network and build relationships with city leaders;
- a Council Certificate that can be used for college applications and career advancement; and
- enhanced skills and knowledge to serve the community beyond the program.

The Council will kick off with a swearing in ceremony at the August 14 City Council meeting and a special Saturday retreat on August 19. Regular meetings will be held in the evening on the second Wednesday of each month September through April in various locations throughout the city. Additional volunteer opportunities will be offered throughout the school year. Applicants **MUST** participate in the opening retreat and submit written notice if they are unable to attend any regular meetings.

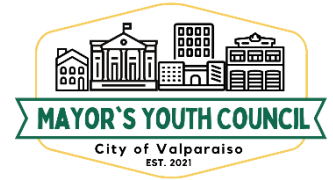
Upon receiving your application, it will be sent to Mayor Murphy and the 2023-2024 selection committee. The selection committee will determine if there is a need to complete in-person interviews, and notify all applicants of their status by July 1.

### Application Requirements Include:

1. Application Form
2. Short Answer Questions
3. Student and Parent Commitment Agreement

**All required application materials must be submitted by May 31, 2023** and emailed to [mclifton@valpo.us](mailto:mclifton@valpo.us) or dropped off at Valparaiso City Hall, 166 W. Lincolnway. For questions, please contact Maggie Clifton, Community Engagement Director, at [mclifton@valpo.us](mailto:mclifton@valpo.us) or 219-462-1161.

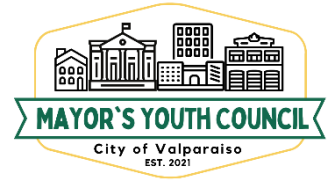
**Valparaiso Mayor's Youth Council  
2023-2024 Schedule**



<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Monday, August 14*	5:30pm – 6:30pm	Swearing in Ceremony at City Council Meeting
Saturday, August 19	9:00am – 2:00pm	Saturday Opening Retreat – Local Government 101
Wednesday, September 13	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Leadership Development & Working on a Team
Wednesday, October 11	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Assessing Community Strengths & Weaknesses
Wednesday, November 8	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Valpo Parks
Wednesday, December 6	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Community Nonprofits
Wednesday, January 10	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Planning a Successful Community Project
Wednesday, February 14	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Public Safety
Wednesday, March 13	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Business Community & Economic Development
Wednesday, April 10	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Advocacy 101 & Program Evaluation
Monday, May 13*	6:00pm-7:00pm	Presentation to City Council

\*Dress code professional/business casual.  
Dress code to be appropriate for workplace at all sessions.

# Valparaiso Mayor's Youth Council 2023-2024 Application Form



Please clearly write your responses in ink.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ 2023-2024 School Year Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

School Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size (adult sizes): \_\_\_\_\_

Please list your anticipated commitments outside of school and homework for the 2022-2023 school year (include clubs, jobs, sports, etc.):

Activity: \_\_\_\_\_ Hours/Week: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity: \_\_\_\_\_ Hours/Week: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity: \_\_\_\_\_ Hours/Week: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity: \_\_\_\_\_ Hours/Week: \_\_\_\_\_

I initiated interest in this program: YES NO

I was asked to apply for this program: YES NO If yes, by whom? \_\_\_\_\_

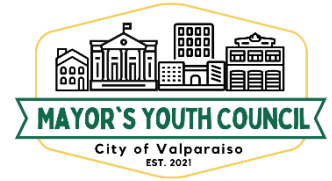
Do you have a license and vehicle that you will drive next year? YES NO

If not, are you able to secure transportation to meetings? YES NO

*The VMYC does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, political affiliation or disability. The following information is not required. It is requested to facilitate our goal of assembling a diverse group. Omitting this information will not affect your application.*

Race or ethnic group: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender Identity: \_\_\_\_\_

**Valparaiso Mayor's Youth Council**  
**2023-2024 Application VIDEO SUBMISSION**

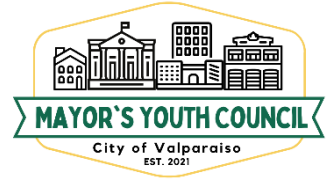


The selection committee would like you to submit your responses to the following questions as a video recording. This interview-style video gives us the opportunity to learn more about you and your interest in the program. **Videos should be no more than five-minutes in length.**

1. Briefly tell us about yourself.
2. Why do you want to be a member of the Valparaiso Mayor's Youth Council?
3. What do you hope to learn or experience?
4. What is one quality you pride yourself on and what will this contribute to the Council?
5. How are you involved in the community outside of school?
6. What areas do you see a need for improvement in the community?
7. What is one question you would like to ask the Mayor?

Videos can be shared via email or through Dropbox/Google Drive. Make sure the video file is saved with your name as the file name. Please direct video files to Maggie Clifton at [mclifton@valpo.us](mailto:mclifton@valpo.us). If you prefer to share the video file another way, contact us. Confirmation will be given once the file is received.

## Valparaiso Mayor's Youth Council 2023-2024 Commitment Agreement



I recognize that attendance and participation are essential to achieve the objectives of the Valparaiso Mayor's Youth Council.

Council members must abide by the following code of conduct:

- Be respectful of themselves and others.
- Be professional, accepting and open-minded.
- Listen and consider other people's ideas and feelings – be a team player.
- Be present, mindful and engaged.
- Bring a positive attitude to all meetings and activities.
- Communicate openly and honestly with each other, program leaders and elected officials.

I have read and understand the commitment required if I am selected as a member of the Valparaiso Mayor's Youth Council.

Student: X \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment

I recognize that \_\_\_\_\_ is submitting an application to serve on the Valparaiso Mayor's Youth Council. I support my child's participation in the Council and understand that attendance is of high importance. I also give permission for the City to share my child's name and use photographs in promotional materials for the Council.

Parent/Guardian: X \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_