Iowa Youth Congress
Local Sponsor Volunteer Application

What is Iowa Youth Congress (IYC)?
The Iowa Youth Congress (IYC) convenes students from around the state to discuss issues that affect youth. Youth learn about state and local government, advocacy, and civic engagement. Students gain valuable leadership skills such as public speaking, problem solving, and debate. IYC is modeled after the Iowa House of Representatives and accepts up to 100 high school participants. The term is one year (July – June). Eligible students may reapply for additional terms.

What is an IYC local sponsor?
A local sponsor is a volunteer position supporting one or more youth members as they serve their terms. Local sponsors will be responsible for the following duties.

- Supporting students as they draft position statements, debate their positions, and talk to legislators
- Attending and transporting youth to three in-person meetings at the Capitol in Des Moines
- Attending and transporting youth to three in-person regional meetings
- Recruiting engaged, qualified youth

Who is eligible to be a local sponsor?

- Applicants must be over the age of 18
- Applicants must be associated with a youth organization (e.g., Girl Scouts, 4-H, Boys and Girls Clubs, schools)
- Applicants must complete the form below and return it to Claire Yocom via email by June 8th, 2020
- Applicants with knowledge of state government are preferred

Name: ____________________________________________________________
Organization: ______________________________________________________
Job Title(s): _______________________________________________________
Grade Level(s): ____________________________________________________
Email _____________________________________________________________
School Address: ____________________________________________________
City: ___________________ State: _______ Zip Code: __________________
Work Phone: _______________ Cell Phone: ____________________________
Applications and questions should be submitted to Claire Yocom at Claire.Yocom@iowa.gov or 515-725-2836 or go to https://humanrights.iowa.gov/iowa-youth-congress

Student Responsibilities
Students will be part of geographic regions, which will meet in-person in their respective regions three times in addition to three times as a congress at the capitol. Students will also participate in:

- Drafting and proposing position statements for the annual Mock Congress event.
- Creation of committees to further work on position statements
- Supplemental communication with region and/or committee members to create and execute their advocacy action plan.
- Students are expected to volunteer and create a service project in their local communities.
- Advocate for legislative or policy change in Iowa with community leaders and elected officials.

Who is eligible to Participate in IYC?
- Applicants must be high school students between 14-18 years old.
- Applicants must live in Iowa.
- Applicants must submit a completed application.