



**Represent
Your
Community**



**Learn
&
Grow**



**Create
Change
Now!**

Interested in making a difference in your community?

Apply to Join the FEMA Youth Preparedness Council!

The Youth Preparedness Council (YPC) brings teens together from across the country who are passionate about emergency preparedness and making a difference in their communities. Council members are selected based on involvement in extracurricular activities, leadership experience, and interest in preparedness and emergency management.

Students in grades eight through 11 are eligible to apply.

YPC members share ideas and feedback with FEMA, collaborate to develop preparedness project proposals, and build their leadership and emergency management skills. Youth leaders who are interested in applying to the YPC must submit a completed application form and provide two letters of recommendation.

The application is open Jan. 22 – March 4, 2024.

Learn more and apply today!



Visit ready.gov/kids/youth-preparedness-council to learn more.



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Applications Due



Youth Preparedness Council 2024



**Represent
Your
Community**



**Learn
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**Create
Change
Now!**

Youth Preparedness Council (YPC) Application

Promotional Toolkit

January 2024

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Individual and Community Preparedness Division
400 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20024
FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov



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Overview

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) created the Youth Preparedness Council (YPC) in 2012 to bring together young leaders who are interested in supporting disaster preparedness and making a difference in their communities. Through the YPC FEMA demonstrates commitment to involving America's youth in preparedness-related activities by engaging with young people and soliciting their perspectives, feedback and opinions.

The 2024 YPC application period begins Jan. 22, 2024, and extends through March 4, 2024, 11:59 p.m. PT. With your help, we're looking forward to reaching diverse audiences in our efforts to encourage young people throughout the country to apply to the YPC.

This promotional toolkit provides key messages, social media captions and graphics, a sample news release and other information about the YPC application that you can use for your websites, communications, newsletters and social media pages.

Application Process

From Jan. 22 until March 4 at 11:59 p.m. PT, young people in grades eight through 11 can [apply to join the YPC online](#).

A complete application package includes the following material, submitted via the application portal or by email:

- Parent/guardian consent for application to the YPC.
- One application, which includes written or video responses to a series of narrative questions.
- Two letters of recommendation.
- Any supplemental materials that applicants feel supports their application (optional).

During their term on the National YPC, members provide input on disaster preparedness strategies, initiatives and projects. YPC members serve one-year terms and are expected to attend the YPC kickoff and other council meetings and to work with a team on a preparedness project. Members also attend one YPC Summit, which will next take place in Washington, D.C. during July 2025.

In addition to FEMA's national YPC, some of FEMA's regional offices host regional YPCs. All youth who apply to the YPC through this application are considered for both their regional Council (when applicable) and the national Council.

Potential applicants can learn more about the application process at two information sessions:

- Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024, at 5 p.m. ET (register [on Zoom](#))
- Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024, at 8 p.m. ET (register [on Zoom](#))



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Please note that these information sessions are optional and will not influence final YPC member selection. The same information will be presented at both sessions.

Application Timeline

Date	Activity
Jan. 22, 2024	Application opens
Jan. 25, 2024	Applicant Information Session #1 (5 p.m. ET)
Feb. 27, 2024	Applicant Information Session #2 (8 p.m. ET)
March 4, 2024	Application closes (11:59 p.m. PT)
March – April 2024	Application review period
May – June 2024	Selection and notification
July 2024	National YPC kick-off (virtual event)

Key Messages

These messages can be used to spread awareness of the YPC application period. Partners can share them through their social media channels (X, Facebook, Instagram or LinkedIn), newsletters, bulletins, word of mouth and emails.

Please include the hashtag #FEMAYPC2024 to connect these messages with the larger conversation.

Key Points to Mention

- Application period dates (Jan. 22 – March 4, 2024)
- Applicant Information Session dates (Jan. 25, and Feb. 27, 2024)
- Visit the [YPC page on FEMA.gov](#) to apply!
- Want to learn more? Visit the [YPC page on FEMA.gov](#).
- Who can apply (teens in grades eight through 11)

Audience

We have identified several key audiences we encourage to apply to the YPC. As a promotional partner, you can help us reach these audiences and encourage young people throughout the country to apply to the YPC.

As a promotional partner, you can:

- Use your platforms to help build awareness of the YPC application period.
- Encourage individuals and their networks to share information with teens about joining the YPC.
- Drive teens to access and complete the YPC application.



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Below are the audiences we hope to engage:

TARGET AUDIENCE	WHAT THEY NEED TO KNOW	CALL TO ACTION
New Youth Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the YPC and what does it do? • Why they should apply. • How to apply. 	Apply to the YPC! Join our webinars to learn more.
Educators and Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the YPC and what does it do? Why they should encourage young people to apply. • How youth can apply. 	Encourage youth in grades eight through 11 to apply to the YPC!
Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the YPC and what does it do? • Why the youth they work with may be strong candidates and why they should apply. • How youth can apply. 	Encourage youth in grades eight through 11 to apply to the YPC!

Suggested Outreach Channels

To promote the application, you are encouraged to use a variety of channels during the application period to reach individuals from diverse audiences.

Suggested channels include:

- Direct emails using listservs and distribution lists.
- Newsletters and bulletins.
- Social media platforms such as Facebook, LinkedIn, X and Instagram
- Webinars.
- Website announcements and press releases.



Below are some considerations for promoting on social media:

- Optimize content for each platform by understanding the audience. LinkedIn followers will most likely be professionals, parents or teachers, while Instagram followers will most likely be younger.
- Diversify messaging/graphics across platforms to keep audiences engaged.
- Consider when to send messages. School-age children are less likely to engage during the school day, while adults access LinkedIn in the morning on weekdays.
- Include a call-to-action for interested users to take action/learn more.



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Promotional Messaging Directly Targeting Youth

The sample messages below are geared towards social media platforms that are commonly used by young people. **All messages should include a link to the application and any approved hashtags.**

Link: <https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>
Posting Frequency: 1–2 status updates a week from Jan. 22 and March 4, 2024
Main Hashtag: #FEMAYPC2024
Tip: Use location-based geotags for your region and/or hashtags aligned to your school or organization to reach a wider audience.

- FEMA wants to hear from teens ready to lead in emergency management and climate resilience. Apply to the Youth Preparedness Council today! #FEMAYPC2024 #YouthPrep
<https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>
- You can play a role in strengthening community resilience and helping FEMA promote and sustain a prepared nation. Join a team of like-minded peers by applying to FEMA’s Youth Preparedness Council. #FEMAYPC2024 #YouthPrep
<https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>
- Ready to represent your community as a young leader and help FEMA promote national preparedness? Apply to FEMA’s Youth Preparedness Council today! #FEMAYPC2024 #YouthPrep
<https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>
- FEMA is looking for young leaders like you to build a more prepared nation. Join the Youth Preparedness Council to help your communities be safer, more prepared and more resilient. #FEMAYPC2024 #YouthPrep <https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>
- Are you interested in learning more about a career in emergency management? Join a team of like-minded peers by applying to FEMA’s Youth Preparedness Council. You’ll gain valuable experience and expand your leadership skills. #FEMAYPC2024 #YouthPrep
<https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>
- Ready to apply your leadership skills and learn more about emergency management? Join FEMA’s Youth Preparedness Council! #FEMAYPC2024 #YouthPrep
<https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>
- Have ideas to strengthen your community’s preparedness? Apply to FEMA’s Youth Preparedness Council to be part of a group of young leaders who can impact the nation’s preparedness. #FEMAYPC2024 #YouthPrep <https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>



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- Are you interested in learning how to improve climate resilience or disaster-related mental health outcomes in your community? Apply to the Youth Preparedness Council and you could join a team of like-minded peers to share your perspective with FEMA. #FEMAYPC2024 #YouthPrep <https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>
- Looking for an extracurricular activity to boost your college application while making a difference in your community? Apply to join FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council! #FEMAYPC2024 #YouthPrep <https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>

Promotional Messaging Targeting Educators, Parents and Organizations

FEMA developed sample messages for parents, educators, administrators, community leaders and anyone who might know teens interested in joining the YPC. These messages are ideal for social media platforms such as X and Facebook. However, feel free to use these messages on any social media platform. Be sure to include a link to the application.

- Link:** <https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>
- Posting Frequency:** 1–2 status updates per week between Jan. 22 and March 4, 2024
- Main Hashtag:** #FEMAYPC2024
- Tip:** Use location-based geotags for your region and/or hashtags aligned to your school or organization to reach a wider audience.

FACEBOOK/LINKEDIN

- Spread the news! FEMA wants to hear from teens ready to lead in emergency management by participating in the Youth Preparedness Council! The application period is now open through March 4, 2024. #FEMAYPC2024 #YouthPrep <https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>
- FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council (YPC) encourages teens to use their unique perspectives and experiences to make a difference in their communities. Let the teens in your life know that the YPC application period is open now through March 4, 2024. #FEMAYPC2024 #YouthPrep <https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>
- Do you know any teens who want to build leadership skills while making a difference in their community? FEMA is now accepting applications for its Youth Preparedness Council. Spread the word with students in your community by letting them know about this unique opportunity. #FEMAYPC2024 #YouthPrep <https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>
- Do you work with young leaders interested in improving climate resilience and disaster-related mental health outcomes in their community? Let them know that FEMA is now accepting



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applications for its Youth Preparedness Council! Applications close March 4. #FEMAYPC2024 #YouthPrep <https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>

- FEMA wants to hear from young people ready to get more involved in emergency management and community resilience by joining its Youth Preparedness Council. Help us get the word out and share this great opportunity with students you know. #FEMAYPC2024 #YouthPrep <https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>
- Spread the news! FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council gives teens a unique opportunity to make a difference in their community while gaining valuable experience that will prepare them for college, a professional career and a life of service. Applications are open until March 4. #FEMAYPC2024 #YouthPrep <https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>
- It is never too early for young people to get a glimpse of what a career in emergency management would be like! The Youth Preparedness Council brings together like-minded peers to help FEMA build climate and community resilience. Spread the word! #FEMAYPC2024 #YouthPrep <https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>
- FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council gives teenagers in grades eight-11 an opportunity to strengthen resilience in their communities and help FEMA promote national preparedness. Tell a teen in your life about this unique opportunity. #FEMAYPC2024 #YouthPrep <https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>

X

- Do you know a student who wants to represent their community, make a positive impact, learn and grow? FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council was made for them! The application period is open, so share the news! #FEMAYPC2024 <https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>
- FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council is looking for young student leaders who have helped their communities get more prepared for disasters. The application period is now open until March 4, so spread the news! #FEMAYPC2024 <https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>
- Know a young student leader with a passion for disaster preparedness? FEMA is now accepting applications for its Youth Preparedness Council through March 4, 2024. #FEMAYPC2024 <https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>
- Spread the news! FEMA wants to hear from teens who are ready to lead in emergency management by applying to join the Youth Preparedness Council! The application period is now



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open through March 4, 2024. #FEMAYPC2024

<https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>

- Retweet this news! FEMA is looking for student leaders interested in improving climate resilience and disaster-related mental health outcomes. Students in grades eight-11 are encouraged to join the Youth Preparedness Council and help their communities become more prepared.

#FEMAYPC2024 <https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>



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Sample Outreach Products

If you have a blog on your organization's website, consider publishing this news release to spread the word about the YPC application period and linking to it through your other outreach.

News Release

FEMA Is Now Accepting Applications for the National Youth Preparedness Council

WASHINGTON, D.C., January 2024 – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is pleased to announce that the application period for its Youth Preparedness Council (YPC) is now open.

FEMA created the Youth Preparedness Council in 2012 to bring together leaders in grades eight -11 from across the country who are interested in supporting disaster preparedness nationally and locally. The YPC offers an opportunity for teens passionate about emergency management, climate resilience, community preparedness and mental health to engage directly with FEMA to share ideas and feedback, grow their leadership skills and make a difference in their communities.

YPC members also participate in a biennial summit in Washington, D.C. (tentatively scheduled for July 2025) where they will network and learn more about emergency management with FEMA leaders and other preparedness professionals.

YPC members are chosen based on their interest in preparedness and helping others, their involvement in their community and their aptitude for working on a team and as a leader. Those who apply should express what preparedness means to them and how their skills and background could strengthen FEMA's work. Successful applications will provide a well-rounded overview of applicants' interests and activities and include examples from their schoolwork, community service and leadership experiences. Written or video responses to major application questions are accepted.

[Applications can be completed online or in PDF format.](#)

The online application opens on Jan. 22, 2024 and closes on March 4 at, 11:59 p.m. PT. Selected candidates will be notified of their status by June of 2024.

FEMA will host two informational webinars about the application process, on Jan. 25, at 5 p.m. ET (visit the [Zoom link](#) to register) and Feb. 27, 2024 at 8 p.m. ET (visit the [Zoom link](#) to register). Both webinars cover the same material.

Interested youth can apply on the [YPC page on FEMA.gov](#).

For more information about the YPC or other youth-focused preparedness initiatives, send an email to FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov.



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Email Targeting Youth

Sending e-mail blasts about the YPC application period is an effective way to announce the release of the application and share reminders. You can use the below message as a starting point.

Become a Member of the Youth Preparedness Council (YPC)

Are you a young leader who is passionate about disaster preparedness and making a positive impact in your community? The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is committed to actively involving students like you in preparedness activities through the Youth Preparedness Council (YPC). Apply today to be a part of the YPC and share your voice with FEMA!

What is the YPC?

YPC members meet regularly to develop preparedness projects, share feedback with FEMA staff and learn about emergency preparedness. They also attend a biennial YPC Summit in Washington, D.C. where they work with their peers to develop preparedness project proposals and network with FEMA leaders and other emergency management professionals.

Why Should You Apply?

Joining the YPC is an opportunity for you to make a difference in your community and work with a group of like-minded peers towards building a more resilient nation. It also allows you to gain valuable experience in emergency preparedness. If you are ready to collaborate with peers and improve your leadership and project management skills and help your community, apply today!

How to Apply?

The YPC application period opens on Jan. 22, 2024 and closes on March 4 at 11:59 p.m. PT. Students in grades eight through 11 are eligible to apply. Selected candidates will be notified by June 2024.

To learn more about the YPC and application requirements, visit the [YPC website](#). Visit the [application page](#) to apply. FEMA will also host two webinars for potential applicants on [Jan. 25](#) and [Feb. 27](#), 2024.



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Email Targeting Parents, Educators and Organizations

Consider using the sample messages below to send an e-mail to promote the YPC application.

FEMA Now Accepting Youth Preparedness Council Applications

Do you know a young leader who is passionate about making a positive impact on their community? The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is looking for students in grades eight through 11 interested in supporting disaster preparedness to join the Youth Preparedness Council (YPC).

Why Is It Important for Youth to Apply?

FEMA created the Youth Preparedness Council in 2012 to bring together young leaders from across the country who are interested in supporting disaster preparedness locally and nationally. The YPC supports FEMA's commitment to involve America's youth in preparedness-related activities. It also provides young people an opportunity to present their perspectives, feedback and opinions to FEMA staff.

During their terms, YPC members can make a difference in their community, gain valuable leadership and emergency management experience and work with like-minded peers to help strengthen preparedness and resilience across the country.

What do YPC members do?

YPC members meet with FEMA staff throughout their term to develop strategies, initiatives and project proposals. YPC members also attend the biennial YPC Summit in Washington, D.C. (tentatively scheduled for July 2025), along with FEMA leaders and other preparedness professionals, to network and learn more about the field.

Who would be a great YPC member?

Students in grades eight through 11 who have a passion for preparedness and helping others, are involved in their community and have an aptitude for working on teams and as leaders are great candidates for the YPC.

Spread the Word!

You can spread the word by sharing information about the YPC with parents, educators, schools, organizations and reaching out to friends and family! Do you know a student who would make a great candidate? Encourage them to apply today!

How to Apply?

The online application opens on Jan.22 and closes March 4 at 11:59 p.m. PT. To learn more about the YPC and application requirements, visit the [YPC website](#) and visit the [application page](#) to apply. FEMA will also host two webinars for potential applicants on [Jan. 25](#) and [Feb. 27](#), 2024.



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Sample Newsletter Article

FEMA's YPC Application Period Opens January 22

Do you know a teen who has a passion for preparedness? Starting in January, FEMA will accept applications for the 2024 Youth Preparedness Council (YPC) from youth in grades eight through 11.

Since 2012, FEMA brought together young people from across the nation who have a mindset for preparedness and community service. Each year, teens apply to the YPC for an opportunity to join FEMA in moving people to action. As part of the YPC, members meet peers from across the country, build leadership skills, represent their schools and communities and share their perspectives, feedback and opinions with FEMA. Members will also attend the biennial YPC Summit in Washington, D.C. (tentatively scheduled for July 2025).

Those who apply should express what preparedness means to them and how their skills and background will help strengthen FEMA's work. Responses should provide a well-rounded view of those who apply, including evidence from their schoolwork, community service and experiences with leadership. Applicants can apply through either a written or video response.

If you know a teen who is interested in preparedness and community service, please encourage them to apply! Help us spread the word about this year's YPC by using #FEMAYPC2024 on social media when sharing this news.

The application period opens on Jan.22, and closes on March 4, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. PT. Beginning on Jan. 22, students can apply to the YPC through the [application page](#). FEMA will also host two informational webinars for potential applicants on [Jan. 25](#) and [Feb. 27](#), 2024.

Bookmark the [application page](#) to apply once the application goes live on Jan. 22.

To learn more about the YPC and its current members, visit the [YPC website](#).



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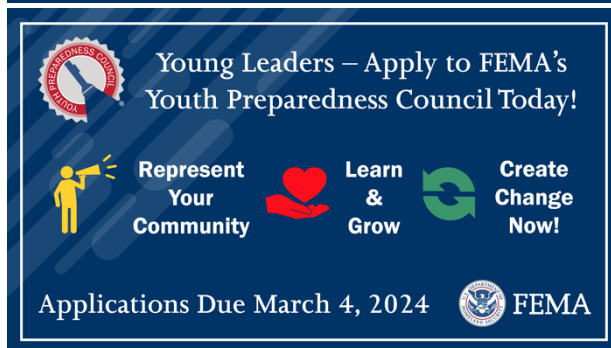
QR Code and Sample Graphics

The QR code below links to the YPC website and can be used in promotional materials as needed.



The following images can be used for posts on social media such as Facebook, Instagram, X and LinkedIn. Refer to the previous “Suggested Outreach Channels” (page 5) for text to pair with these graphics. Don’t forget to include the [application link](#), and please use the hashtag #FEMAYPC2024.

Note: these graphics are also available as separate files [online](#).



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The following images can be used for story posts on platforms like Facebook and Instagram. Consider tagging @FEMA to direct your story viewers to links and resources from FEMA. Don't forget to include the [application link](#) and hashtag #FEMAYPC2024.

Note that these graphics are also available as separate files [online](#).




**Young Leaders – Apply to
FEMA’s Youth Preparedness
Council Today!**
Applications Due March 4, 2024

 **Represent Your
Community**

 **Learn & Grow**

 **Create Change
Now!**

 **FEMA**




**The 2024 Youth
Preparedness Council
Application is LIVE!
Apply Today!**

 **Represent Your
Community**

 **Learn & Grow**

 **Create Change
Now!**

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FEMA Youth Preparedness Council Application Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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Getting Started

When is the deadline to apply?

Applications, letters of recommendation, and supporting materials must be received by March 4, 2024, 11:59 p.m. PST. Application materials must be submitted through the online portal or emailed to FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov.

How do I complete my application?

You have two (2) options for completing a Youth Preparedness Council (YPC) application.

Option 1: Online Application – apply online through the YPC application portal.

To complete an online application, visit the application [portal](#).

Option 2: Email Application – apply by completing a PDF application and submitting via email.

To apply through email, download a [PDF version](#) of the application form and submit it via email.

Make sure you have the most recent version of Adobe Reader to view and edit the file. You can download Adobe Reader at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>. Applicants must input responses directly into the application form, which is an editable PDF. Be sure to save a downloaded copy of the PDF to your computer.

When submitting, please clearly label all files (e.g., FirstName_LastName_ApplicationForm), including the application form, letters of recommendation, and any optional supplemental material and submit as attachments to your email. Send all material in one (1) email to FEMA@Prepare@fema.dhs.gov. Remember that we must receive consent from your parent/guardian before we can review your application.

Who will review my application?

FEMA Headquarters and regional staff will review applications. You can learn more about FEMA's ten regional offices here: www.fema.gov/regional-contact-information. Semi-finalists will be asked to participate in a virtual (e.g. Zoom) or telephone interview.

Who Can Apply?

Who can apply to join the YPC?

Each applicant must be a current 8th, 9th, 10th, or 11th-grade student who has done at least one of the following:

- Participated in community activities;
- Served in a leadership role;
- Lived through a disaster and shared their experiences; and/or
- Participated in a preparedness activity or training related to emergency preparedness.

I applied last year and was not selected to the YPC. Can I apply again?





Yes! Unfortunately, we are unable to accept all qualified applicants in a given year. Previous applicants are encouraged to reapply. There is a space on the application form to indicate whether you have previously applied.

Can someone who serves on a local preparedness organization (e.g., a Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT) apply to serve on the YPC?

Yes, any 8th, 9th, 10th, or 11th-grade student who is engaged in their community may apply to serve on the YPC.

Can I nominate someone for the YPC?

We encourage you to share the application with youth who you think would be a good fit for the YPC. However, FEMA will only consider applications submitted directly by applicants themselves. That is, you cannot apply for someone else. If you are 18 years or older, writing a letter of recommendation for an applicant is a great way to show your support.

Requirements and Materials

What makes a complete application package?

A complete package includes the following attachments submitted either via the application portal or in one email:

- Parent/guardian consent for your application to the YPC (see below).
- One application, which includes your answers to the narrative response questions.
- Two letters of recommendation.
- Any supplemental materials that you feel support your application (optional).

Please clearly label all attachments (e.g., FirstName_LastName_ApplicationForm; FirstName_LastName_Recommendation1).

If the files are too large to send in an email, you may want to consider:

- Uploading supporting materials, videos, and information to file sharing websites (e.g., Google Drive, Dropbox, or YouTube for videos, etc.) and providing the link rather than attaching the files. Applicants can put links directly into the “Description” fields in the “Supplemental Materials” section of the application. **Note:** When sharing links, please ensure that you are securing the file link by setting permissions so that only FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov can access it and/or password protect the link.
- Compressing pictures or reducing the resolution of pictures.
- Converting text and/or images to PDF files.

If you have a problem submitting your application materials, please email FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov for assistance.

How do I provide parent/guardian consent?

If you are under the age of 18, your parent/guardian must provide consent for your application. We cannot review your application without this consent.





- If you are applying online through the application portal, please ensure your parent/guardian submits the online consent form attached to your application.
- If you are applying by email, please ensure that your parent/guardian emails FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov and includes: 1) their full name, 2) your full name, and 3) the following statement:

I confirm that I am the parent/guardian of the applicant listed above, and I consent to their application to FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council (YPC). This consent includes their submission of the initial application and, if selected as semi-finalist, a video conference interview with FEMA headquarters and regional staff (including contractors).

We will reach out to applicants if we do not receive the appropriate parent/guardian consent.

What are the requirements for the narrative responses on the application form?

You may address all narrative response questions/topics on the application form by either written or video response.

Written Response

If responding in writing, please adhere to the character limit (including spaces) provided for each response. Once you have reached the limit, the application will not accept any more characters. You may need to rework your response to fit within the designated character allotment.

Video Response

If responding via video, you must address all narrative response questions from the application form in one video recording. To submit your video, upload your video to a video-sharing website (e.g., YouTube) and provide the link in the indicated field in your application. When sharing links, please ensure that links are secured by setting permission to "unlisted." Remember that you should submit one video that responds to all narrative questions, and that your video must be no longer than seven (7) minutes.

Who should I ask to write my letters of recommendation?

Letters of recommendation must come from adults 18 years of age or older who are familiar with your involvement in the community. Examples of people who may write letters of recommendation include group leaders, teachers, advisors/counselors, school administrators, coaches, employers, and community or faith leaders. Family members, relatives, or guardians may not write letters of recommendation. Letters may be submitted in English or in Spanish.

What types of supplemental materials can I submit?

You can submit any materials that you feel will support your application. Possible supplemental materials include news articles that you have written or in which you were featured, relevant materials you have developed, or pictures or video of a community activity in which you took part. Be creative! Showing your activities and impact will strengthen your application.

All supplemental materials must be submitted online with the application or included in the same email as the rest of the application materials. Please clearly label supplemental materials (e.g., FirstName_LastName_SupplementalDocument1).

Please note that supplemental materials are not required.





Selection Notification

Will I get a notification when my application is received?

FEMA will send an email confirming receipt of your application. If you do not receive a confirmation email within three (3) business days, please resend your application or email FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov.

When will I find out if FEMA selected me for the YPC?

FEMA will select and notify new YPC members by June 2024. FEMA will also notify applicants that are not selected at that time.

Are there any monetary rewards associated with being selected for the YPC?

There are no cash rewards associated with being selected for the YPC. Please note that there is also no financial support for projects associated with the council and that there is no cost associated with participation in the council.

Responsibilities

If selected, what will be required of me on the YPC?

Participants are expected to share their perspectives on emergency preparedness with FEMA and their communities. The 2024 YPC program begins in July. Members attend a virtual kickoff meeting, and then are expected to serve on the council for a full year. During their term on the council, members work together as a team to develop a preparedness project. Members are also expected to attend the YPC Summit which will be held in Washington, DC in July of 2025.

Members are also required to participate in mandatory group conference calls. These calls allow members to provide updates on their projects, pose questions to FEMA staff, and provide feedback to FEMA and each other. Members are permitted to miss one call per year. Throughout the year, council members also meet in small groups to discuss their work and/or to attend office hours with FEMA staff.

Members are expected to submit monthly activity logs that include information about progress they have made, challenges they have faced, and their participation in community activities.

Members who do not fulfil council responsibilities may be released from the council and/or not invited to participate in the YPC Summit.

For more information on the requirements, please see the [YPC Member Roles and Responsibilities](#).

What is the YPC Summit? When and where does it take place?

Members selected for the 2024 YPC are expected to attend the YPC Summit upon completion of their term in the program. This Summit will be held in Washington, D.C. during July of 2025. More information will be provided as the date approaches.

Attendance is mandatory for all YPC members.

The YPC Summit provides an opportunity for council members to meet FEMA representatives and council teammates, begin thinking about their projects for the year, and learn more about FEMA's organizational structure and basic project management skills. Sessions during the YPC Summit cover





a range of topics. In some sessions, YPC members are given the opportunity to share their ideas and questions with FEMA and community partners. In other sessions, new members prepare for the projects they will develop during their time on the YPC.

Each YPC member must be accompanied to the Summit by a parent/guardian or parent-approved chaperone. More details about the Summit and Summit-related travel will be provided as the date approaches.

How much will the YPC Summit cost?

In accordance with federal travel regulations, YPC members and chaperones will be reimbursed for expenses associated with the YPC Summit. Members and chaperones are asked to pay some expenses up front (see details below) and are reimbursed by FEMA after the YPC Summit. If this structure poses a hardship, please be in touch with program staff.

YPC members and their chaperones are reimbursed for:

- **Travel:** FEMA will pay for transportation via common carrier – air, rail, or bus transportation—in advance of the Summit. Travel includes transportation to and from the airport, train station, etc. Reimbursement for parking and local travel—transportation to and from YPC Summit-related events—will take place after the Summit. **Note:** Transportation for personal excursions, such as sightseeing, is not reimbursable.
- **Lodging:** FEMA selects location and pays for lodging in advance of the Summit.
- **Meals and incidental expenses:** Expenses in this category are reimbursed at a flat, per diem rate.

More information will be provided as the date of the Summit approaches.

Additional Questions

Please email additional questions to FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov.

