

# YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL

*A partnership between the Metropolitan Drug Commission,  
the Knox County Mayor's Office, & the City of Knoxville Mayor's Office*



## 2010 Application Form

The Knoxville/Knox County Youth Action Council is a partnership of the Metropolitan Drug Commission, the Knox County Mayor's Office, and the City of Knoxville Mayor's Office created to ensure that the opinions and concerns of youth are voiced and that teens have opportunities to engage in community problem-solving efforts.

You must currently be classified as a high school student living in Knox County, must have achieved a grade point average of "2.75" or better, and must be willing to make YAC meetings a priority by committing to attend all required meetings for one full year of service to the YAC.

The program requires FULL attendance at an overnight retreat on Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. Regular, required meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. beginning June 2010 and ending May 2011. The planning retreat and monthly meetings are vital to the success of the YAC and therefore any individual unable to attend on these dates is discouraged from applying. Representatives are also expected to attend committee meetings monthly and commit to participating in other YAC activities agreed upon by the council during their term. Students must have access to transportation in order to meet attendance requirements. All program activities are provided free of charge to the student.

**Please email or fax complete application along with 2 recommendation forms (relatives should not serve as references), proof of grades & parent permission**

**\*\*No later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 16, 2010.\*\***

**\*\*Email [ladinolfi@bellsouth.net](mailto:ladinolfi@bellsouth.net) or Fax to (865) 588-0891.\*\***

***Submit applications that are type written or completed in blue or black ink only. Do not use pencil!***

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Circle your gender (Optional):    **Male**                      **Female**

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Circle your current grade:    **9<sup>th</sup>**    **10<sup>th</sup>**    **11<sup>th</sup>**    **12<sup>th</sup>**

Daytime Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile or Other Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (please provide an email address that is checked regularly): \_\_\_\_\_

Your Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle your ethnicity (Optional):    **White**            **Black/African-American**            **Asian-American**            **Latino/Hispanic**            **Other**

***Please answer the following questions completely. Do not use pencil!  
FEEL FREE TO USE ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NECESSARY.***

1. Why do you want to be a representative on the Knoxville/Knox County Youth Action Council?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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2. The YAC is a big commitment and an important responsibility. Are you involved with anything that would prohibit you from attending **all** scheduled events and meetings for a full year? \_\_\_\_\_ If selected, where will the YAC fit into your list of obligations and priorities? Please list your current obligations starting with your most important and explain any reasons you anticipate missing YAC.

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3. What assets (personality traits, experience, knowledge, etc.) do you offer to the Youth Action Council? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Describe an experience that presented a challenge for you. How did you overcome that challenge? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. What do you believe is the biggest issue facing youth in Knoxville/Knox County? What are your ideas for combating this issue? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Tell us more about what motivates and excites you, what your goals are for the future, and what is most important to you in life? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Describe how you have led your fellow peers in an activity through school, sports or church. \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Please provide any additional information about yourself that you feel we should be aware of. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Your Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

***Thank you for applying to be a part of the Knoxville/Knox County Youth Action Council!***

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## 2010 Recommendation Form

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**Completed recommendation forms (from non-relatives) may be returned to the applicant for submission or faxed directly to the Metropolitan Drug Commission, Attention: YAC, (865) 588-0891.**

Applicant's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

For how long and in what capacity have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

Based on what you have read about the Youth Action Council (see reverse) and the characteristics we are looking for in YAC representatives, why do you believe this applicant is a strong candidate for this position? \_\_\_\_\_

Please rate how well your applicant demonstrates the following characteristics on a scale from 1 to 10, 10 being excellent, 1 being very poor. Circle your rating. If needed, explanations of each characteristic are located on the reverse page.

- Awareness.....1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9.....10
- Citizenship.....1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9.....10
- Involvement.....1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9.....10
- Motivation.....1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9.....10
- Responsibility.....1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9.....10
- Articulation.....1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9.....10
- Creativity.....1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9.....10
- Originality.....1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9.....10
- Direction.....1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9.....10
- Teamwork.....1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9.....10
- Work Ethic.....1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9.....10

Please provide additional comments about the applicant's strengths, challenges, interests, experience, accomplishments, abilities, potential or anything else you feel relevant. Feel free to attach additional sheets as necessary.

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your time and support of the Knoxville/Knox County Youth Action Council!**

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## What is YAC?

The Knoxville/Knox County Youth Action Council is a representative body of teens charged with ensuring that the opinions and concerns of their peers are voiced and that youth have opportunities for community engagement. The council is committed to demonstrating the value of involving young people as equal partners and resources for solving problems in the greater Knoxville community.

## Why do we need this?

- To ensure that a youth point of view is considered when policies affecting young people are being decided.
- To gain insight and a fresh perspective for improving our local community.
- To increase awareness among public officials and the general public about issues facing teens.
- To involve youth as equal partners in government and, as a result, give them a better understanding of how the city and county operate.
- To create among teens a stronger connection and sense of responsibility to their communities and allow an opportunity for teens to experience collaboration, problem solving, and leadership.

## What makes the YAC different from other student organizations?

- Council members have multiple opportunities to interact and provide feedback face-to-face with community officials, especially the City and County Mayors.
- YAC representatives are empowered to make decisions and lead the efforts they believe are important—In other words, adults do not dictate the agenda for the YAC.
- The YAC is about community change and creates limitless possibilities for teens.

## What do they do?

The YAC creates opportunities for youth to get involved in government and community service by:

- Hosting special events, such as the Knoxville Youth Summit and a Community Officials Forum for Teens, where youth learn and have a chance to voice ideas and concerns directly to local officials in writing or in person.
- Coordinating service projects, in addition to recruiting and recognizing outstanding youth volunteers.
- Conducting surveys and focus groups to get to the heart of issues affecting young people.
- Assisting local boards of directors with youth representation.

### DESIRED CHARACTERISTICS OF YAC APPLICANTS

**Awareness:** Demonstrates knowledge of key issues facing youth-- what circumstances prevent youth from succeeding, what circumstances motivate youth to succeed.

**Citizenship:** Displays a sense of concern for fellow teens and the community at large.

**Involvement:** Sets a positive example for involvement in extracurricular activities including community service opportunities. Is not over involved and therefore is able to fulfill expectations required for each extracurricular obligation.

**Motivation:** Expresses enthusiasm toward the mission of the YAC and a sincere desire to make a difference in the community.

**Responsibility:** Demonstrates maturity and ability to follow through with a yearlong commitment of time and energy to the YAC.

**Articulation:** Communicates opinions thoroughly and clearly with both peers and adults.

**Creativity:** Exhibits creative problem solving skills.

**Originality:** Introduces unique abilities, interests, ideas or culture to the team.

**Direction:** Expresses clear objectives and concern for their future as well as plans for achieving personal goals. Carefully chooses commitments or activities to be associated with.

**Teamwork:** Understands the concept of working in a team and generally works well with others.

**Work Ethic:** Hard working and demonstrates natural leadership qualities, though not necessarily in leadership roles already. Could benefit from additional encouragement and opportunities to develop leadership skills.

**Academics:** Maintains a minimum of C+ average throughout the YAC year of service. (School grade reports will be required for verification.)

## **Important Information for Parents: Please Read**

### YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL (YAC)

Your son or daughter is applying to serve a one-year term with the Knoxville/Knox County Youth Action Council (YAC). The YAC is a partnership between the Metropolitan Drug Commission, the City of Knoxville Mayor's Office, and the Knox County Mayor's Office. If selected, it is a great honor to participate in this organization and will provide your child with a unique leadership experience and a variety of opportunities to meet and speak with community officials on behalf of teens across the county.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

The Youth Action Council is administered by the Metropolitan Drug Commission (MDC) and most meetings will take place at the Cherokee Health, 2018 Western Avenue. MDC staff and/or adult volunteers are present at all scheduled activities of the YAC. If you have any questions regarding the YAC's activities or requirements, please feel free to contact Leah Adinolfi at (865) 588-5550 or [ladinolfi@bellsouth.net](mailto:ladinolfi@bellsouth.net) any time.

### REQUIREMENTS

YAC members must currently be classified as high school students living in Knox County, must maintain a grade point average of "C+" or better, and must be willing to make YAC meetings a priority by committing to attend all required meetings for one full year of service to the YAC.

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Representatives are also expected to attend committee meetings monthly and commit to participating in other YAC activities agreed upon by the council during their term. Students must have access to transportation in order to meet attendance requirements. All program activities are provided free of charge to the student.

Each member must agree to uphold these standards and may be dismissed at any time for failure to meet these requirements.

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