



2026-2027 Youth Leadership Wayne Application

Mission Statement

Youth Leadership Wayne is a leadership development program that informs, motivates, and increases the awareness of selected high school juniors and seniors through interaction with community leaders.

The program is an investment in the community's future leadership.

Application Process

- ❖ Please complete each section in full.
- ❖ Applications **must be typed** and complete to be considered.
 - Short Answer Essays: Answer all 4; limit responses to 200 words or less.
- ❖ **Please attach one (1) reference letter**; This letter should be from an adult who knows you well, other than a parent or relative. For example: employer, community leader, clergy, or someone within the school system, etc.
- ❖ Application must be signed by both candidate and parent/guardian.
- ❖ **Application deadline is Friday, May 29 by 4pm.**
- ❖ Letters notifying the applicants of the selection committee's results will be emailed to the candidate on or before June 12.
- ❖ Questions: If you have any questions regarding the application, please contact Deena Bennett, CEO for Wayne County Chamber of Commerce at (912) 427-2028 or email at: dbennett@waynechamberga.com.

Youth Leadership Wayne Selection Criteria

- ❖ Applicants must have the full support of the school, principal, and their guardians.
- ❖ Attendance at the all sessions is **mandatory** unless an emergency arises. Missing 2 days will result in dismissal from the program.
- ❖ Class members are chosen on their own merits based upon the information completed in the application. **All work needs to be the original work of the applicant.** For the best results, you are encouraged to have someone proofread your work prior to submission.
- ❖ **Do not over commit yourself.** If you have extracurricular sports or events, AP, Dual Enrollment, etc., you will still need to be able to participate in the FULL class day each session.
- ❖ Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- ❖ There will be NO in-person interviews. Because of this, careful attention will be paid to each application. **Make sure that your application is reflective of who you are and the image you want portrayed. Excellent applications will be detailed, thoughtful, and formatted properly on each page with correct grammar and punctuation.**

Confidential Application

Incomplete Applications will NOT be considered.

Youth Leadership Wayne is designed for youth that are beginning to show leadership potential. The day-long sessions are intended to develop leadership skills and community awareness.

Full Name _____ I prefer being called _____

Name to appear on YLW Graduation plaque: _____

Address _____
Street _____

City

State

Zip

Cell Phone _____ Birth Date ___ / ___ / _____ Gender _____

Name of Parent/Guardian (1) _____
(Note address, if different)

Name of Parent/Guardian (2) _____
(Note address, if different)

School you will attend Fall 2024 _____ Rising: Junior Senior

Have you applied for Youth Leadership Wayne before? Yes No Polo shirt size: _____

Email address: _____

Un-weighted GPA: _____ Weighted GPA: _____

On a separate sheet on paper, please type your responses to the following:

1. On a scale of 1 (the lowest) to 10 (the highest) where would you rate your leadership skills?
2. What are your areas of interest in studies?
3. What are your plans after high school?
4. What are your high school extra-curricular activities?
5. What community service/volunteer activities outside of high school have you participated in?
6. What high school awards/honors have you received?
7. List your work experience/internships (Include dates).

Short Answer Essays

Please answer ALL of the following questions – 200-word limit on each.

E1. Who do you feel is a leader? Name them and define what a leader is in your own words.

E2. What is the most important issue/problem that you face as a teenager today alongside your peers? Why do you think it is a problem and how do you work to reach a resolution?

E3. In your opinion, what is the most challenging issue facing the Wayne County area today? Describe how you would correct the problem if resources were unlimited.

E4. Tell us about yourself. Why should we choose you over someone else?

Tuition Commitment

- ❖ After acceptance, participants will be required to pay a \$150 one-time fee to help offset some of the expenses. This is due no later than July 1, 2026 to reserve your spot.
- ❖ This fee is submitted to the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce.

Will you be able to fulfill this commitment? _____ (Student Signature)

_____ (Parent Signature)

Attendance and Behavior Agreement

- ❖ If chosen as a member of Youth Leadership Wayne, I understand I must agree to attend the entire day of all mandatory program sessions (including the Kick-off and Graduation) in order to graduate from the YLW program. There are a total of 8 sessions and 6 are during school hours. The Kick-off & Graduation are in the evening.
- ❖ Monthly sessions are generally held on the second Tuesday of the following months: September, November, January, March & April. Sessions generally run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **Schedules need to be planned accordingly. We will plan an overnight trip to the State Capitol in February 2027.**
- ❖ If you have a test on a YLW scheduled day, please make arrangements well in advance to take your test on an alternate day so that you can attend all mandatory YLW sessions.
- ❖ Transportation will be provided by school bus or transit van during the day. Students are not allowed to follow the bus in their personal cars.
- ❖ I understand the dress code for each program will be YLW polo and pants. No open toe shoes. The one exception will be our visit to the State Capitol and the required dress code is business attire.
- ❖ I agree to uphold a moral obligation to Youth Leadership Wayne to behave in a manner that is professional and appropriate.
- ❖ I understand that I will be removed from the program if I participate in anything that is illegal and/or morally questionable, including embarrassing myself, my family, my school, Youth Leadership Wayne or the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce. I also understand that I may be removed from the YLW program for defiance, disrespect, poor attitude or refusing to participate in scheduled activities.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Signature of Parent

Date

Application Checklist

- Completed application
- Letter of recommendation
- Signatures – student and parent/guardian – on all page 4
- Ability to commit to program and its requirements

Please submit your completed application packet to the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce no later than 4:00 pm on Friday, May 29, 2026.

Program Info: (Dates are subject to change)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Attendees</u>
07/30/26	Orientation	6:00pm	Chamber of Commerce	Students & Parents
08/11/26	Kickoff/Bonding	4:00pm – 8:00pm	TBA	Students
09/15/26	History/Tourism	8:30am-3:30pm	8am @ Chamber office	Students
11/10/26	Healthcare/Education	8:30am-3:30pm	8am @ Chamber office	Students
01/12/27	Local Government	8:30am-3:30pm	8am @ Chamber office	Students
February TBA	State Capitol	TBA	TBA	Students
03/09/27	Agriculture	8:30am-3:30pm	8am @ Chamber office	Students
04/13/27	Business/Industry	8:30am-3:30pm	8am @ Chamber office	Students
05/11/27	Graduation	6:00pm	CPTC	Students & Parents

**** A Chamber staff or board member will accompany the students during each session. Students are not allowed to drive personal vehicles.**