



This is your city

Change it here!



Join the
San Francisco Youth Commission
2010-2011 Application

If you could tell the Mayor one thing... what would it be?

Apply to the **San Francisco Youth Commission**

...and tell him what you think every day!

The Youth Commission is a group of 17 San Franciscans between the ages of 12 and 23. Our job is to stand up for the needs of all young people in the policy and legislative debates at City Hall. Whether it comes to Muni, schools, juvenile justice or health, we serve as authentic advisors on youth issues to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor.

Come down and represent for your community and young people all over San Francisco: join the Youth Commission! **We're shaking things up at City Hall!**

San Francisco Youth Commission Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How does the Youth Commission impact City government?

A: Youth commissioners can influence government in a number of ways. For example, according to the City Charter (which is San Francisco's constitution), the Youth Commission must consider any proposed law that would affect young people and decide whether or not the proposed law would be good for young people. Commissioners then have opportunity to convince lawmakers to pass or reject the proposed law. Also, youth commissioners can develop their own laws and policies relating to young people and try to convince the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to pass them.

Q: What does a commissioner do?

A: Commissioners are responsible for identifying the concerns and unmet needs of youth in SF through personal contact, forums and other public events, and research. Commissioners also examine current programs and propose plans to improve them. We cooperate with community groups who are working on policies affecting youth, and submit recommendations to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors about youth-related activities and programs that benefit youth. All of these activities are part of the commissioners' overall mission of advising the Board of Supervisors and Mayor on the effects of the government's policies, programs, priorities and budgets on youth.

Q: Are Youth Commissioners paid?

A: Sadly, no. However, you can receive health care. Also, doing good, impactful work on the Youth Commission looks excellent on resumes and college applications. Finally, depending on your school, there are opportunities to earn extra credits or units for your work at the Commission.

Q: What skills do I need? Do I have to have worked in politics before?

A: The central job of a Youth Commissioner is understanding the most important issues affecting young people, clearly discussing these issues, and speaking on them from your own perspective and the perspective of other young people. Problem solving, listening, and critical thinking are the key skills. While experience in things like mock trial or student government can be useful, a young person with the above skills is just as valuable to the work of the Commission. The most successful Youth Commissioners are often those with the least "political" experience.

Recent Accomplishments of the Youth Commission:

Keeping Muni Affordable

In February 2010, Muni tried to raise the price of the Youth Fast Pass to \$30/month.

The Youth Commission, working closely with many community-based organizations, convinced Muni's Board of Directors that this was a horrible idea that they should abandon—because it would make Muni too expensive for many young people.

Now, the Youth Youth Commission is working on a project to get a reduced-price fast pass for youth who qualify for free & reduced lunch. The Board of Supervisors agrees with us: they passed the Youth Commission's resolution file no. 100408 on April 13, 2010, asking Muni to create this pass, which would cost \$10 per month. The Youth Commission is currently lobbying the Muni Board of Directors about this issue.

Ever Been Locked Up? Confused about the Rules?

In the fall of 2009, the Youth Commission, working in collaboration with other City departments, put out a simple, youth-friendly guide to understanding the juvenile justice system for youth who are arrested and detained.

On the first Saturday of each month, the Commission facilitates a workshop at the Youth Guidance Center (juvenile hall) so that youth who are being released—and their parents—understand the rules of probation.

LGBTQ Sensitivity and Safety in Schools

Starting with his own experiences as a queer high school student, in 2009 a Youth Commissioner wrote a resolution calling on the School District to take major steps to fight homophobia in the schools.

After lots of advocacy, in February of 2010 the Board of Education passed a nearly identical resolution—and this year the District is offering its first-ever LGBTQ Studies class and committing more resources to preventing homophobia.

Evaluating Your Teachers

In the fall YouthVote Student Survey--a questionnaire that the Youth Commission puts out twice a year--8,256 public high school students talked about the most important issues in their lives.

Thousands said they wanted the ability to evaluate their teachers at the end of the year. So, Youth Commissioners worked long and hard to guarantee that the School District make this teacher evaluation a reality.

At the end of this semester, Spring 2010, all public middle and high school students will have the opportunity to do so.

All Youth Deserve Due Process, Even the Undocumented

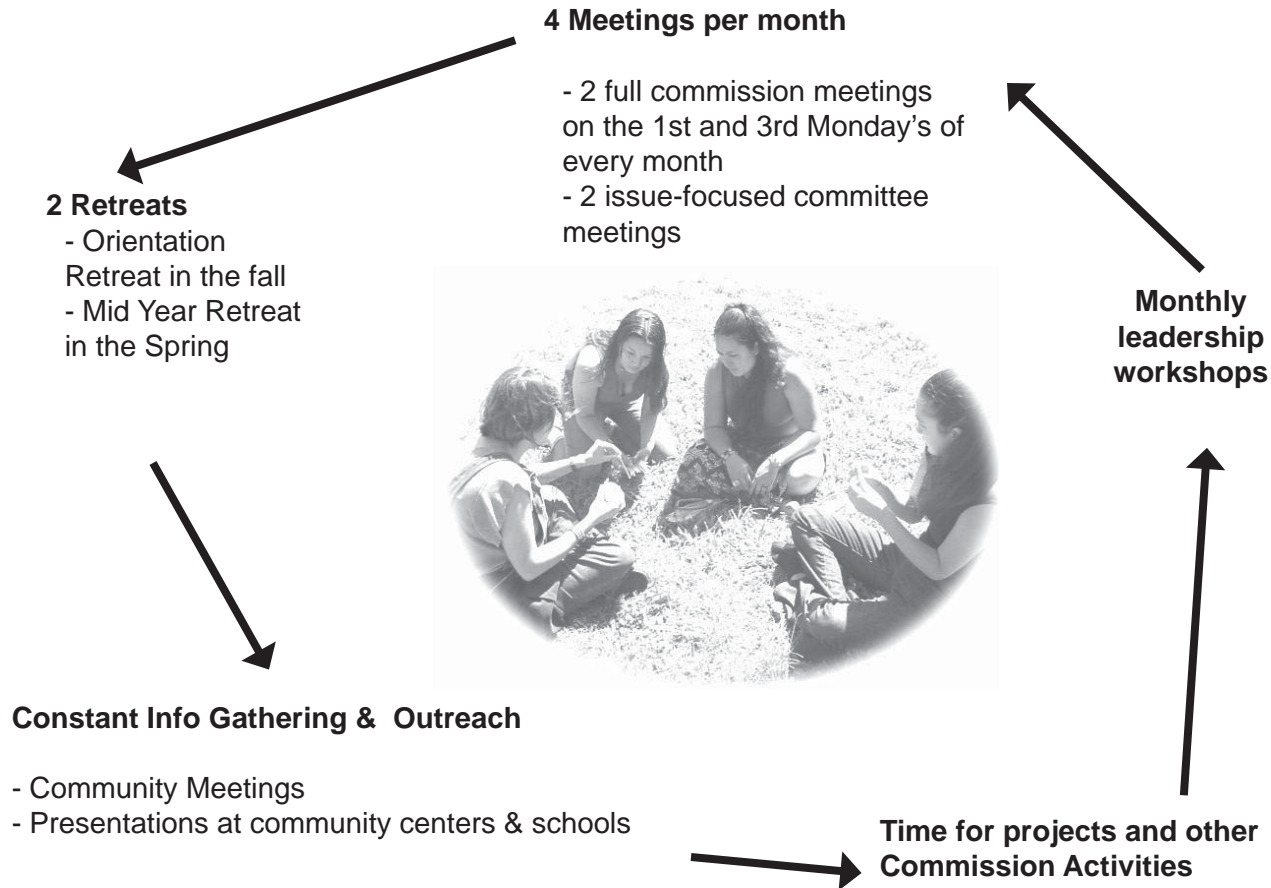
In the fall of 2008, the Youth Commission was one of the first groups to lobby the City to change its policy on undocumented youth who get arrested.

Under this policy, the City reports undocumented young people who are arrested for felonies to the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency for deportation right when they got arrested.

Youth Commissioners and many committed community organizations and concerned advocates convinced Supervisor David Campos to introduce a law that would require the City to report these undocumented youth to ICE only after they are convicted. Despite the fact that this law was passed in November 2009, it has yet to be enforced.

The Time Commitment of a Youth Commissioner

Being a Commissioner takes a minimum of 3 hours per week.



Key dates

Beginning of the Year Orientation Retreat

- Aug 13th – 15th
- Location TBA

Mid-Year Retreat

- January 22nd & 23rd
- Location TBA

Youth Commission Meetings

- 1st and 3rd Mondays of every month, August 2010-June 2011
- 5:30-8:00pm

As a Commissioner you will have an opportunity to work on a lot of really cool projects. So, it is important to balance your time between school, home, work and the Commission wisely.

How to apply:

Please review the following application process. If you have any questions about the application, need help filling it out, or are just curious about the status of your application, please contact our office at (415) 554-6446 or mario.yedidia@sfgov.org.

While we try very hard to stay true to the deadlines listed below, the process sometimes takes longer than expected. Please be patient and we will contact you as soon as possible!

Please note: late applications will not be accepted.

1. Please submit your completed application to the Youth Commission by 5:00 pm on Friday, June 4, 2010, using one of the following methods:

Mail

San Francisco Youth Commission
City Hall, Room 345
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Fax

(415) 554-6140

E-Mail

Mario.Yedidia@sfgov.org

2. Applications will be reviewed and interviews will be scheduled during the second week of June.
3. Applications are forwarded to the Office of the Mayor and to the members of the Board of Supervisors for review.
4. The Mayor and the Board Members may either choose to appoint an applicant to the Commission at this point OR to call applicants for further interviews.
5. You will be contacted by the Youth Commission regarding the status of your application by July 1st, 2010.
6. The Youth Commission Orientation Retreat is held August 13th-15th. This retreat is mandatory for everyone appointed to the Commission (see last page of application).
7. Commissioners are officially sworn in at the end of August.

San Francisco Youth Commission

Application for 2010-2011

Please Return By 5:00pm on Friday, June 4, 2010. **Late applications will not be accepted.**

Please PRINT clearly or type on a separate page:

Name _____

Address _____

Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____

Cell _____

E-mail _____

Birthday _____ Age _____

Gender Identity (optional) _____

Ethnicity/Nationality/Race (optional) _____

Languages spoken (optional) _____

Sexual orientation (optional) _____

If in school, what school will you attend in the fall? _____

- What grade will you be in? _____

Please list all other schools you have gone to _____

Do you have a job? Yes No

What communities do you feel connected to? (Examples: Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, Disabled, Homeless, Teen Parent, Low-Income, Irish American). **Remember: you are not limited to these choices... feel free to add your own!**

Essay Questions

Please answer the following questions in essay format on a separate sheet of paper. Limit one page per answer.

- 1.** Tell us why you want to be a Youth Commissioner.
- 2.** Describe to us the importance of the biggest issues that impact young people.
 - First, please tell us about an issue that impacts you directly.
 - Also, describe an issue that does not impact you directly, but impacts your friends, classmates, family members, or coworkers.
 - Finally, share some ideas that could help fix these problems.
- 3.** Do you have any experience working on projects to improve your community or speaking out on youth/community issues? If so, describe your experience.
- 4.** The Youth Commission requires a commitment of time and energy and a minimum of 3 hours per week. List the other responsibilities/activities that you will have next school year (example: school, work, sports, dance).

San Francisco Youth Commission

Applicant Agreement

(Please initial next to the statements you agree with)

I, _____ certify that:
(name)

_____ The information provided in this application is accurate and I have made every attempt to answer all questions truthfully and to the fullest extent possible.

_____ I have reviewed the application and the calendar for the 2010-2011 Youth Commission term and understand that the dates provided are mandatory, and will be a part of my monthly 12-hour commitment to the Youth Commission.

_____ I understand that this year's Beginning of the Year Orientation Retreat will be held on Friday, August 13th – Sunday, August 15th from 9am to 6pm, and that my attendance is required on all days.

Print Name

Signature

Date