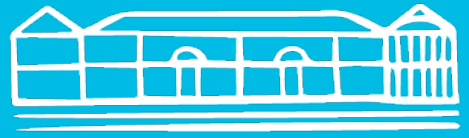


The Y NSW Youth Parliament

2026 Application Pack



What is Youth Parliament?

Youth Parliament is the Y NSW's flagship leadership and civic engagement program that empowers young people to have a voice in Parliament and in their community.

We are an apolitical program

Regardless of who you are, and what you believe in, the Youth Parliament Program caters for all. We are not affiliated to any political parties and encourage diverse opinions and thoughts in the program!



We'll teach you the skills

Whilst at Youth Parliament, you will get the opportunity to learn about Parliamentary processes and writing legislation, and gain skills in public speaking and leadership. You don't need to have any prior experience to participate - just come ready to learn!

Speak in Parliament of NSW

During our Residential Camp in July, all Youth Members gather in Parliament of NSW to discuss the issues that matter to you. You will be a Youth Member of Parliament for the week, sitting in the Chamber, debating bills and giving speeches.



Meet with Members of Parliament

During Youth Sitting Week, there are opportunities to meet various Members of Parliament as they guest chair the parliamentary sessions during the week.

Have your voice heard

After Residential Camp, Youth Members will have the opportunity to share their Bills with various key stakeholders and advocate the issues that young people of NSW are passionate about and want to see addressed. Maybe your Bill could influence future legislation!



How does it all work?



You are chosen as a youth representative

E.g. The Youth Member for Leppington or Youth Member of the Legislative Council

You will have the option to represent your electorate as a member of The Lower House, or represent NSW as a member of The Upper House.



You are allocated as a member of a portfolio

E.g. A member of the Justice Portfolio.

Once accepted, you will be able to select your top three portfolio preferences, for example Education, Mental Health, Youth Justice. Each portfolio will have roughly 10 people in them and together you will work together to write a Youth Bill on a chosen topic within that relevant portfolio. Each portfolio will elect a Youth Minister.



Attend a 3 day Training Camp in April

Training Camp will be in Sydney, NSW

Training Camp is where the cohort first come together and learn all the important skills that you need to participate in the program. Training Camp will cover advocacy and leadership skills, parliamentary education, public speaking and more.



Writing a Youth Bill with your committee

E.g. A Bill to introduce an increase of school hours

As a committee, you will decide on a topic, research existing legislation, engage in community consultations and write a Youth Bill that addresses an issue in the community. We will guide you step by step on how to do this, and you will be supported by Taskforce volunteers.



Attend Residential Camp and Youth Sitting Week

Have the opportunity to speak during each session

In July, you will attend a 5-day Residential Camp which includes 4-days of parliamentary sittings at Parliament of NSW. During this time, each committee will present their Youth Bill and have it debated and voted on by all members. You will also present speeches on your electorate, and other issues that are important to you.

Who can apply?

You are eligible to apply if you are:



A young person in years 10 - 12 in high school

To participate in the Y NSW Youth Parliament, you must be in years 10 - 12 for the full duration of the 2025 program.



Living in New South Wales

Only young people living in the state of New South Wales are eligible to participate.

In the application form, we will ask which electorate you live in. To find this out, click here:

<https://elections.nsw.gov.au/elections/find-my-electorate>



Passionate about local issues and representing your community

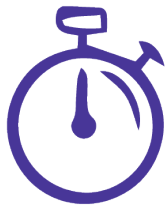
Regardless of who you are and what you believe in, if you're passionate about your community, you should apply.



Important Dates!



Applications open
Monday 20 October 2025



Applications close
Sunday 4 January 2026



Applicants notified
Week of 12 January 2026



Training camp
Sydney
Wednesday 8 April to
Friday 10 April 2026



Youth Bill writing
Online
April to July



Residential camp
Sydney
Monday 13 July to
Friday 17 July 2026

How much will it cost?

The Y NSW is committed to making the Youth Parliament accessible to all young people. Each year, we secure sponsorships and funding to reduce the program cost, ensuring financial circumstances are not a barrier to participation.



The minimum contribution for participants is **\$1,700**, which represents only a portion of the true program cost. If this amount presents a challenge, please indicate this in your application. Our team can support you with fundraising ideas and community connections, including schools, local councils, Rotary Clubs, and other community organisations.

What's Included?

- **Training Camp (April):** A three-day residential program in Sydney where you'll learn advocacy, parliamentary process, and public speaking, and connect with youth leaders across NSW.
- **Residential Camp & Youth Sitting Week (July):** A five-day immersive experience including four days of parliamentary sittings at the NSW Parliament, where you'll debate your Youth Bill and deliver speeches in the Chambers.

All accommodation, meals, transport, workshops, and materials are included.

Giving Back

If you have the capacity to contribute more, we encourage you to do so. Your additional support helps another young person take part in this life-changing program and strengthens youth representation across NSW.

For a confidential discussion about your contribution, please contact the Youth Parliament Team at youthparliament@ymcansw.org.au.

Who runs Youth Parliament?

Youth Parliament is run by the Y NSW, and has been running in NSW since 2002. The Y Youth Parliament has been running in multiple states and territories across Australia for over 30 years.



The Youth Parliament Team consists of:

- Y NSW Staff
 - Youth Parliament Coordinator
 - Youth and Child Voice Manager
 - Wellbeing Support Team (Made up of Youth Workers)
- Youth Parliament Taskforce



The Youth Parliament Taskforce are there to help you with all the content of the program, from writing Youth Bills, speeches and everything you need to know to feel confident in Youth Sitting Week. Many of them have done the program before as a participant so they know exactly what you are about to experience.



The Youth Parliament Taskforce are made up of volunteers aged 18 and over. All Taskforce members have Working with Children Checks and receive training in areas which include:

- Safeguarding Children & Young People
- Teen Mental Health First Aid
- Cultural Capacity
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Parliamentary Processes

How do I apply?

1

Scan the QR Code or click the link below

[Click Here to Apply to Youth Parliament!](#)



2

Fill out the application form and answer all the questions.

These will include:

- Personal information
- Demographic information
- Parent Information
- Application selection questions



3

Choose a format to answer the selection questions



If you choose a **written application**, fill out the boxes in the form with your answers.



If you choose a **video application**, follow the steps on the next page.

The selection questions for this year are:

1. Why are you applying for the Y NSW Youth Parliament Program?
2. What is an issue young people are facing in your community, and what are some solutions?
3. What do you hope to achieve through your participation in Youth Parliament?

You can review a PDF of the full application on our website.

How to submit a video application

1

Make your video

- Answer the selection questions on the previous page.
- Make sure the video is 2 minutes or less.
- Save your video as 'YP26_Application_Firstname Lastname'

2

Upload your video



- Record your video.
- Upload video to your preferred sharing platform (YouTube, Google Drive, Dropbox)
- Create a shareable link and ensure the link can be viewed.

3

Finish Your Application

- Paste your video link into your application.
- Make sure all questions are answered
- Submit your application.

What will I get out of Youth Parliament?



Learn to work in a team with a diverse group of people

Develop lifelong friendship with like-minded young people



Learn new skills and develop your knowledge of civics and leadership



Stay on camp with friends

Practice and increase your public speaking or oral advocacy skills



Visit NSW Parliament and learn about history



Be challenged and expand your thinking

Learn how to write your own piece of legislation



Opportunity to take on a leadership role at Youth Parliament

Learn how to understand and respect people's different perspectives



Join an alumni network and community of 1,700 Youth Parliamentarians



Have loads of fun!

Want more information?

You can follow us on social media to keep updated with the Youth Parliament Program and applications



@the.ynswyp



@the.ynswyp

You can also reach out to the Youth Parliament Team via our email



youthparliament@ymcansw.org.au

**We look forward to
seeing your application!
Good Luck!**



**YOUTH
PARLIAMENT**