



**City of Biloxi – Mayor's Youth Council
Membership Criteria and Application
Packet Deadline for Applying: Thursday, Aug. 27, 2026 at Noon.
(No apps accepted after 12 p.m.)**

Application for potential membership in the Mayor's Youth Council is open to any student in 11th grade who attends high school and resides within the geographic city limits of the City of Biloxi. Applicants must be current high school students in 11th grade and live in the City of Biloxi. Applicants should be students who are recognized as leaders by their peers, hold leadership positions in the school, are active in the community, and strive for academic excellence.

Purpose of the Mayor's Youth Council

Mission Statement: *To give Biloxi youth the opportunity to provide input and insight on community issues, learn about municipal government, and network with youth councils across the state. Through this mission, participants will have the opportunity to develop leadership and citizenship skills for future endeavors.*

Vision Statement: *The Mayor's Youth Council was created to ensure that the youth of Biloxi are engaged, educated, and connected to city government and the community.*

The Mayor's Youth Council provides an outlet for young leaders to discuss and take action to address issues that are important to Biloxi's youth. Members of the Mayor's Youth Council have numerous opportunities to develop their leadership skills through community service by acting as a catalyst for youth engagement in community matters.

This application packet includes:

- *Membership Purpose and Criteria*
- *Participant Commitment Form*
- *Application (two pages and a letter)*
- *Parent/Guardian Statement of Permission*
- *Photography Release Form*
- *Program Calendar*

The application must be complete to be accepted to proceed to the selection process. A completed application includes all blanks filled in, all signatures, and a letter from the student. If the application is incomplete, it will not be accepted. Upon selection to the program, which is limited to up to 25

*students, the selected participants will be required to attend a mandatory orientation on the evening of **Monday, Sept. 28, 2026, from 3:45-6:15 p.m.** at Biloxi City Hall, 140 Lameuse St.*

**Mayor's Youth Council
Participant Commitment Form**

As a member of the City of Biloxi Mayor's Youth Council, I acknowledge my responsibility to represent the city, the mayor, and my peers with integrity while upholding the highest standard of conduct and ethical behavior and adhering to the following commitments:

- *Act in a respectful and professional manner during each leadership session and group activity.*
- *Identify key issues impacting Biloxi youth and serve as their voice and advocate for their best interests.*
- *Act with an open mind and treat all persons with respect, fairness, and courtesy regardless of race, religion, or economic status.*
- *Attend all mandatory sessions, be active and participatory, and maintain regular attendance throughout the program.*
- *Seek and accept leadership development and education from program coordinators and mentors to maximize my growth during the program.*
- *Maintain a commitment to the council's mission statement and the goals of the program.*
- *Prepare and present a group presentation.*
- *Be involved in designated community activities.*

Applicant's Signature

Date

City of Biloxi Mayor's Youth Council Application

The deadline to apply is noon on Aug. 27, 2026 (Not accepted after 12 p.m.)

*If selected as one of the limited participants, your first meeting will be on **Monday, Sept. 28, 2026, 3:45-6:15 p.m.** at Biloxi City Hall, 140 Lameuse St., Biloxi, MS 39530*

Purpose: *To educate Biloxi's young adults about city operations and engage them with community issues and challenges that Biloxi's citizens and community leaders face.*

Eligibility: *You must be in grade 11 and **reside in the City of Biloxi**. To ensure you live in the City of Biloxi, there will be a residency verification.*

Expectations: *You must attend Youth Council meetings. As a member, you are encouraged to participate in community events and city programs/events, organize and conduct a project, study, or evaluations, and attend City Council meetings. **You must provide your own transportation.***

You must distribute the Program Calendar to your band director, show choir director, club leaders, cheer and sport coaches, JRROTC, supervisors of extracurricular activities, and clubs, etc.

Attendance: *Students must attend every session. If a student is to miss a session for an illness, **prior to the meeting**, parents must notify Susan Hunt by calling 228-297-6808 that the student is ill and cannot attend. If the student must miss a session because of a conflict with a scheduled athletic or academic event, the principal, counselor, athletic director, or academic sponsor **must** contact Susan Hunt by calling 228-297-6808 **prior to the meeting**, informing Susan Hunt of the situation. **Tardiness or early departure will not be tolerated. No more than two absences will be allowed.***

Meetings: *You will meet approximately 10-12 times during the school year in a city facility or museum from 3:45 to 6:15 p.m. Meeting days will be Mondays or Tuesdays.*

Transportation: *It is the responsibility of the student to have transportation arranged.*

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Zip Code: _____

School Attending: _____ Grade: _____ GPA: _____ Age: _____

Email Address: _____ Cell: _____

Parent's Name: _____ Parent's Cell: _____

Parent's Email Address: _____

Extracurricular Activities, (clubs, organizations, sports):

Food and drinks will be provided. Please list any **FOOD ALLERGIES** or **DIETARY RESTRICTIONS**, including vegan and vegetarian diets.

Please answer all these questions; write clearly (or type) so we can read your answer.

1. Why would you like to be part of the Mayor's Youth Council?

2. List two to three skills, abilities, or talents you have that would make you a good choice to serve on the Mayor's Youth Council.

3. What do you feel are the two most important issues facing the youth in Biloxi, and how would you suggest addressing them?

4. Compose a one-page letter to the Mayor of Biloxi expressing why you love living in Biloxi. **Attach that letter to the application.** Is the letter attached? _____ Yes (Please refrain from using AI to write your letter.)

By signing below, you are agreeing, if selected, to the following: I have read and understand the Program Guide, Bylaws, Participant Commitment Form, and the Membership Criteria. I also understand that my commitment requires active participation in the City of Biloxi Mayor's Youth Council. I also realize the importance of teamwork and cooperation and am willing to make this commitment. I have also made sure the principal or counselor has signed the application.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Emergency Contact Information

First and Last Name: _____ Relationship to applicant: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone number: _____

School Principal's Signature

Date

OR

School Counselor's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Statement of Permission

As the legal parent/guardian of the applicant, if my child is selected, I give my permission for
_____ to participate in the City of Biloxi Mayor's Youth Council.

By signing below, I am committed to:

- Ensuring this applicant has transportation to and from Youth Council meetings/events.
- Ensuring this applicant remains engaged in the Youth Council while fulfilling their obligations to school, work, and activities.
- Being supportive of this applicant while giving him/her space to make decisions and grow independently in the program.
- Ensuring prompt notification will be given for any absence: If a student is to miss a session for an illness, **prior to the meeting**, parents must notify Susan Hunt by calling 228-297-6808 that the student is ill and cannot attend. If the student must miss a session because of a conflict with a scheduled athletic or academic event, the principal, counselor, athletic director, or academic sponsor must contact Susan Hunt by calling 228-297-6808 **prior to the meeting**, informing Susan Hunt of the situation. **Tardiness and early departure will not be tolerated. No more than two absences will be allowed.**
- Ensuring the applicant distributes the Program Calendar to your band director, show choir director, club leaders, cheer and sport coaches, JRROTC, supervisors of extracurricular activities, and clubs, etc.

By signing this Statement of Permission and initialing each box, I am agreeing to the following, if my child is selected:

"I am the parent/legal guardian of the applicant. I have read the Program Guide, Bylaws, Participant Commitment Form, and Membership Criteria of the City of Biloxi Mayor's Youth Council, and I am signing this statement of permission freely. I understand the legal consequences of signing this document and initialing next to each of the following items:

- ☐ • Releasing the City from all liability on my and the applicant's behalf;
- ☐ • Waiving my and the applicants' right to sue the City or museums;
- ☐ • Permitting and/or authorizing the City of Biloxi to seek emergency medical treatment in the event of accident and/or injury to the applicant and acknowledging I will be responsible for any and all costs of such medical attention and treatment provided; and

- ☐ • *Assuming all risks of the applicant's participation in this City of Biloxi Mayor's Youth Council, including travel to, from, and during the City of Biloxi Mayor's Youth Council or any events incidental to this Council.*

I allow the applicant to participate in this Council. I understand that I am responsible for the obligations and acts of the applicant as described in the Program Guide, Bylaws, Participant Commitment Form, and Membership Criteria of the City of Biloxi Mayor's Youth Council. I agree to be bound by the terms of this document.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Photography Release Form

I grant to the City of Biloxi, its representatives, and employees the right to take photographs and videos of me and my property in connection with the City of Biloxi Mayor's Youth Council. I authorize the City of Biloxi, and its assigns and transferees, to copyright, use, and publish the same in print and/or electronically. I agree that the City of Biloxi Mayor's Youth Council may use such photographs of me with or without my name and for any lawful purpose, including as publicity, illustration, advertising, and Web and social media content.

I have read and understand the above:

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return the completed application to the school principal's office by noon on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2026. (No applications accepted from 12 p.m.)

If you have questions, contact Program Coordinators: Cecilia Dobbs Walton at 228-297-6337, myc@biloxi.ms.us, or Susan Hunt at 228-297-6808, susan.hunt@biloxischools.net.

City of Biloxi Mayor's Youth Council for 2026-2027

Session Times: 3:45-6:15 p.m.

(Session topics, times, and locations are subject to change)

- 1. Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026, Parent Orientation, Biloxi City Hall, second floor, 140 Lameuse St. (5:30 p.m.)**
- 2. Monday, Sept. 28, 2026, Biloxi City Hall, Third Floor, 140 Lameuse St., (3:45-6:15 p.m.)**
 - *Youth Council Orientation, explanation regarding City Council, ward meetings, municipal voting, and group project. Meet Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich*
- 3. Monday, Oct. 19, 2026, Biloxi Visitors Center, Second Floor, 1050 Beach Blvd. (3:45-6:15 p.m.)**
 - *History, Heritage, and Cultural Session One*
- 4. Monday, Nov. 16, 2026, Lopez-Quave Public Safety Building (3:45-6:15 p.m.)**
 - *Police Department and Intelligence (Intel) Division Session*
- 5. Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2026, Biloxi City Hall, 140 Lameuse St. (3:45-7 p.m.)**
 - *Group presentation working session and City Council meeting*

- 6. Monday, Jan. 11, 2027, Lopez-Quave Public Safety Building, Pumper Hall (3:45-6:15 p.m.)**
 - *Fire Department Session*
- 7. Monday, Jan. 25, 2027, Neel-Schaffer Office, 795 Howard Ave. & Coastal Mississippi Mardi Gras Museum, 792 Howard Ave. (3:45-6:15 p.m.)**
 - *History, Heritage, and Cultural Session Two*
- 8. Monday, Feb. 22, 2027, Community Development Auditorium, 676 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. (3:45 – 6:15 p.m.)**
 - *Community Development Session*
 - *Group presentation working session*
- 9. Monday, March 15, 2027, Port Building, 679 Beach Blvd. (3:45-6:15 p.m.)**
 - *Port and Parks & Recreation Session*
- 10. Monday, April 12, 2027, Biloxi Public Works Building, 214 A Delauney St. (3:45-6:15 p.m.)**
 - *Engineering and Public Works Departments Session*
 - *Group presentation working session*
- 11. April 26, 2027, Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum, 115 1st St. (3:45-6:15 p.m.)**
 - *History, Heritage, and Cultural Session Three*
- 12. Tuesday, May 4, 2027, Night council meeting, Biloxi City Hall, 140 Lameuse St. (3:45-7 p.m.)**
 - *Group Presentation rehearsal 3:45-4:20 p.m.*
 - *Group Presentation at Special Called Council Meeting at 4:30-6 p.m.*
 - *Mayor's Youth Council Program Ceremony, 6-7 p.m.*

**The program may also include some during-the-school-day program participation, weekend, and after-hours volunteering, and traveling for events throughout the program.*

***Some volunteer opportunities include: City-wide clean-ups, Biloxi Excel By Five events, Easter events, Halloween on Howard, Christmas events, etc.*