



# FEMA Youth Preparedness Council

## FEMA Region 10 Youth Preparedness Council

August 2018 - August 2019

### Overview

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) mission is to help people before, during, and after disasters. FEMA has a regional office located in Bothell, WA. FEMA Region 10 provides support to state and local governments within Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, and 271 federally-recognized tribal governments. Over the last year, FEMA Region 10 has placed a special emphasis on building disaster preparedness and resiliency amongst youth and youth serving organizations. In an effort to engage youth in building a culture of preparedness, FEMA Region 10 is establishing a new Region 10 Youth Preparedness Council (YPC). The Region 10 YPC will bring together 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade youth representing the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and two federally-recognized tribes within our Region. FEMA is seeking youth who are engaged in advocating preparedness and making a difference in their communities. Regional YPC members will be selected based on their dedication to public service, their efforts in making a difference in their communities, and their potential to expand their impact as regional supporters for youth preparedness.

During their two-year term, members will manage and execute projects with both local and regional-level objectives; serve as preparedness ambassadors in their communities; and share their unique perspective on emergencies with FEMA and other preparedness organizations. While the term is identified as two-years, council members may resign if circumstances require.

Members will attend a Region 10 Youth Preparedness Council Summit where they will participate in team building activities, engage in project planning, hone public speaking and leadership skills, learn from their peers and mentors, and feel empowered to be leaders in their communities.

In addition to the Council being an exciting opportunity for members and FEMA Region 10, this experience can strengthen students' resumes, college applications, and potential scholarship opportunities. FEMA staff are available to provide letters of recommendation and act as professional references, to support students' future endeavors.

## Potential Projects for Region 10 YPC Members

- Start various programs or clubs in school or in the community, such as a Teen Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP) program, or Red Cross Club.
- Support continued development of Region 10 YPC.
- Develop a coalition to unify local youth preparedness organizations.
- Develop a Junior Medical Reserve Corps program among local Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) chapters.
- Implement the National Strategy for Youth Preparedness Education.
- Help a local community become a Storm Ready community. (StormReady is a National Weather Service (NWS) program that helps communities prepare for severe weather events. The program outlines guidelines that communities must meet in order to be certified as StormReady.)

## Region 10 YPC Kick-Off Meeting and Travel

A Regional YPC meeting will be held in the Lynnwood, Washington area, on August 14 - 15 2018. Travel days for those coming from out of town or state will be on August 13 and 16, 2018.

**Attendance is mandatory for all Region 10 YPC members.** This meeting provides an opportunity for Region 10 YPC members to meet FEMA Region 10 staff, share ideas with FEMA staff, and prepare for the activities they will do during their term on the Region 10 YPC. Each Region 10 YPC member must have a parent/guardian/parent-approved chaperone accompany him or her to the meeting. FEMA Region 10 will reimburse transportation, lodging, and meals for each Region 10 YPC member and his or her parent/guardian/chaperone. Please do not make any reservations on your own. FEMA Region 10 staff and FEMA travel personnel will assist you with this process to ensure costs do not exceed federally mandated per diem allowances. FEMA staff will also assist with the pre-departure travel voucher process and ensure all required documentation is collected and submitted.

## **Region 10 Council Member Roles and Responsibilities**

The Regional YPC is a unique opportunity for youth leaders to serve on a Regional council, to complete youth preparedness projects, to voice their opinions on youth disaster preparedness with FEMA Region 10 leadership and partner organizations, and to participate in the Region 10 YPC Summit. Being selected to serve on the Region 10 YPC is a significant responsibility that requires dedication and time-management skills. It is important that members use time management skills to balance school, extracurricular activities, and their involvement in the Council. Region 10 YPC members are expected to participate in bi-monthly Regional YPC conference calls and complete one team and one individual preparedness-related project annually that benefits their community. The August meeting serves as the kick off for project planning. Members will have until the following August to complete and implement their projects. Members who successfully complete their initial year on the Region 10 YPC will be invited to remain on the YPC for a second year and may be provided leadership opportunities within the Council.

Although we expect a lot from you, the FEMA Region 10 Individual and Community Preparedness staff and other members of the FEMA team are available to support you. Do not hesitate to reach out to us at any time by emailing [fema-r10-communityprep@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-r10-communityprep@fema.dhs.gov).

## **Region 10 YPC Member Roles**

Region 10 Youth Preparedness Council members are expected to fill the following roles:

### **Youth Preparedness Ambassadors**

Region 10 YPC members spread the word about the importance of youth preparedness in their local communities and on a regional scale through conferences, public events, small-group discussions, social media, news stories and articles, etc.

### **Liaisons on the Youth Perspective**

Region 10 YPC members and Region 10 Individual and Community Preparedness staff will periodically meet with the Region's Community Preparedness Working Group. This group, comprised of local, state, tribal, and federal partners, shares insights and opinions on youth preparedness efforts and initiatives.

### **Project Implementers**

Each Region 10 YPC member works with other Region 10 YPC members, as well as regional, state, or local organizations and partners to complete a youth preparedness project. Projects may require considerable time commitment and dedication in order to be successful.

## FEMA Region 10 Mentors

For this initial year, FEMA Region 10 Individual and Community Preparedness staff will serve as mentors to guide new, first-year YPC members in their projects and activities. In subsequent years, second-year YPC members may be selected to serve as mentors during their second year. Mentors serve as a main source of guidance for other members and therefore must reserve time to answer questions, provide support, and stay in touch with all R10 YPC members.

## Logistics and Other Responsibilities

### Email Communication

Email is the primary method of communication used for the Region 10 YPC. Each Region 10 YPC member must have access to an email account, with a professional email address, and be committed to checking it regularly.

### Conference Calls

Members participate in **mandatory** calls. However, communication is not limited to these calls. Members are encouraged to communicate with FEMA and their fellow Region 10 YPC members as needed. You are permitted to miss one All Council call per year. If you need to miss a call, you must send an email to the FEMA Region 10 Individual and Community Preparedness staff, Ilyssa Plumer at [ilyssa.plumer@associates.fema.dhs.gov](mailto:ilyssa.plumer@associates.fema.dhs.gov) and Mike Davenport at [michael.davenport@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:michael.davenport@fema.dhs.gov) beforehand.

- **Bimonthly All Council calls (all members):** Region 10 YPC members attend calls to provide updates on their projects, pose questions to FEMA staff, and provide feedback to other members based on their experiences. Members will also, at times, lead and present during calls.
- **Twice yearly milestone calls (all members):** Region 10 YPC members are required to participate in two one-on-one calls per year (September and March), with FEMA Region 10 Individual and Community Preparedness staff to check in on the status of projects.
- **Team project calls (team members):** R10 YPC members are expected to participate in calls with fellow team members, the FEMA Region 10 Individual and Community Preparedness staff, and other project mentors. These calls provide an opportunity for members to plan and implement their project. Calls will take place as needed.

## **Core Values**

Region 10 Youth Preparedness Council members are expected to uphold FEMA's core values of Compassion, Fairness, Integrity, and Respect while serving on the YPC. FEMA may ask R10 YPC members to leave the R10 YPC at any time for inappropriate behavior.

## **Further Information**

For further information or questions, please contact Ilyssa Plumer at [ilyssa.plumer@associates.fema.dhs.gov](mailto:ilyssa.plumer@associates.fema.dhs.gov) (phone: 425-487-4943) or Mike Davenport at [michael.davenport@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:michael.davenport@fema.dhs.gov) (phone: 425-487-2225).