Oregon Youth Data Council Application

## What is the Youth Data Council?

The [YDC](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/SURVEYS/Pages/Youth-Data-Council.aspx) started in March 2022 as a way for youth to tell the Oregon Health Authority Public Health and Oregon Department of Education how to improve the[**Student Health Survey**](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/SURVEYS/Pages/student-health-survey.aspx)(SHS). The SHS is a survey that you may have taken in class in the fall that asks a bunch of questions about a lot of topics that *may or may not* be relevant to you and your life. That is why we need you on the YDC!

## Why be part of the Youth Data Council?

[Equity](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/EI/HECMeetingDocs/Health%20Equity%20Definition_October%202019%20HEC%20Presentation%20to%20OHPB.pdf). Inclusion. Racial Justice. These are our goals.

Students are taking the survey, so it makes sense for young folks to have a voice in the types of questions that are being asked and how we talk about and use the survey. We want the SHS to be a tool that helps **all** Oregon students get the support and services that students need to be successful. And we know that the survey needs to reflect the reality of your lives so we get reliable and useful data for shaping policy and funding decisions.

You can be that voice for your school and your community. And did we mention **you get paid**?

## What do YDC members do?

The YDC meets from late October 2022 through April 2023 with a winter and spring break. As a Council member, you’ll spend about **4 hours a month** working on a project in a group and on your own.

You will **sign up for a workgroup** focused on a special project to improve the [Student Health Survey](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/SURVEYS/Pages/student-health-survey.aspx) (SHS). That way you can do some of the activities on your own time and bring your own special skills while still being part of a group to support you. This year, the project teams will be:

* **Survey team**: Give input on 2024 Student Health Survey topics and make recommendations on how surveys happen in classrooms and schools;
* **Data team**: Review the current 2020 SHS results and help understand the data based on your experiences and what other students and community members are saying; or
* **Communications team**: Help design messaging and communication about the SHS to students, families, schools and districts.

Members of the YDC also **commit to attending one 60-minute virtual meeting each month** to share updates on their projects, hear about other workgroups, give input on SHS activities, and make sure they are getting what they need from OHA and ODE to complete their projects. Meetings will be on the **third Thursday of the month from 4:00 – 5:00**.

## What do YDC members get?

YDC members **receive a $100 non-taxable gift card each month** ($600 total) for coming to monthly meetings and working on projects for about **4 hours every month**. This is *your* Youth Data Council and *you* are the only ones who know what it’s like to be a young person today. In turn, we can offer trainings and connections to state and national leaders to support your projects.

## Who should join the YDC?

If you’re reading this far, **you are probably who we’d like to join the YDC**! We are looking for members with a wide variety of skills and interests to get the workgroup projects done. We want members who are enthusiastic about sharing their stories, experiences and ideas to improve the [survey](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/SURVEYS/Pages/student-health-survey.aspx) and want to partner with adults working in state systems. The only requirements are that you:

* Are 15 to 20 years old, and
* Have been a student in a public school in Oregon.

That’s it. You don’t need any special skills or training to be part of the YDC – you don’t need to have started a community organization or be the president of your school. Your experience in life is enough!

**We want the YDC to reflect the diversity of Oregon youth**. The YDC is looking for members who have strong connections to their family, friends and community, especially those who identify as:

* Tribal, Indigenous, American Indian, Alaska Native or urban Native
* Black or African American, Asian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Latino/a/x, Middle Eastern or North African
* LGBTQ2SIA+
* Living with a disability
* Living in a remote area or far away from cities, suburban areas and towns
* Facing system challenges, such as houselessness, hunger, poverty and foster care

A close-up of a lock

Description automatically generated with low confidence

## Think you want to apply for the YDC?

We are excited you would like to be a member of the Youth Data Council! We know there are many things you can do and we appreciate you sharing your time, energy and experience with OHA and ODE.

This application will help us find a wide range of young people to help us continue to build the Youth Data Council. In October 2022, we will use the information you share to select around 15 young people from across the state of Oregon for the second YDC cohort. This cohort will serve through April 2023 and **you will receive $600 total in** **non-taxable gift cards** for participating.

We have designed the application process to learn a bit more about you and what experiences have shaped you and the perspectives you are bringing to the YDC. **Completing this form will likely take you less than an hour** and all the information you share will be confidential and only shared with the selection committee.

You can complete this application as a Word document or a Google doc, and send it as an email attachment or upload it on the [YDC website](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/SURVEYS/Pages/Youth-Data-Council.aspx). If you need help to complete the form or have questions about the YDC, please text / call Kari Greene at 503-910-6681 or email her at [kari.greene@dhsoha.state.or.us](mailto:kari.greene@dhsoha.state.or.us).

# We would like to get to know you.

What is your first and last name?

How old are you?

Current school / employment status: (*check all that apply*):

High school student (traditional or alternative school)

Part-time job

Full-time job (35 hours/week or more)

Technical college, vocational school or certification program (e.g. carpentry, electrician, cosmetology, phlebotomy)

Community college

Four-year college or university

Something else: (please tell us what)

How many years of K-12 public education did you spend in Oregon?

More than 8 years of public school in Oregon

4 – 7 years of public school in Oregon

1 – 3 years of public school in Oregon

None of my K-12 education was in Oregon public schools *(sadly,* *you are not eligible to participate in the YDC)*

# Contact information (required)

What is your phone number?

What is your email address?

Please share the name of a parent, guardian or trusted adult we can contact if we need to get in touch with you.

What is their relationship to you?

What is their phone number?

What is their email?

# Tell us more about your experiences and background.

*We want to make sure we have representation on the Council from groups who have been excluded from systems in Oregon, like the education, housing or healthcare systems. Only the selection committee will see your application and will keep your information private.*

*We want to make sure we have a range of members with various racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, so* ***please complete the first two questions below****. All other questions about your lived experience and identity are* ***optional****.*

How do you describe your race / ethnicity? [*required*]

What is the language you use most often in your home? [*required*]

What language do you feel most comfortable using for school or work?

There are many ways a person can describe their gender identity and many labels a person can use (boy, girl, nonbinary, demi, fluid). How would you describe your current gender identity?

There are many ways a person can describe their sexual orientation and many labels a person can use (bisexual, asexual, straight, gay, queer). How would you describe your current sexual orientation?

*We want to make sure we have members with a wide range of experiences to inform the youth surveys, so we want to know what experiences have shaped you and the perspectives you are bringing to the YDC.* If you are comfortable sharing, please let us know if you have any experience with the following:

Living with a disability

Living in a remote area or far away from cities, suburban areas and towns

Hunger or not having enough to eat

Houselessness or not having a safe and stable place to sleep

Poverty

Foster care, child welfare or juvenile justice systems

# Tell us more about your interests and a bit more about who you are.

What kind of experiences have you had working in groups or being involved with youth-led organizations making decisions about how the group works? What worked well for you and what didn’t work? *(If you haven’t worked on many group projects, then that’s ok too!)*

We want to get to know who you are in your own words. Please write a \*brief\* response (less than 500 words) to **JUST** **ONE** of the following prompts so we get a sense of who you are. You can type directly into this form or if it’s easier for you, feel free to attach a separate Word / Google document to this form.

* Tell us about yourself. Why is it important that you are represented on the Youth Data Council?
* What do you want people to know about the community that you come from?
* What is a cause that you care deeply about and why?

**…*Remember, you only need to respond to one of these questions!***

You will be part of a workgroup focused on a YDC project to improve the [Student Health Survey](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/SURVEYS/Pages/student-health-survey.aspx). During the first month on the YDC, you will choose a project team. We need members interested in data, design, social media, research, community organizing and many other skills and interests! Let us know if you already have an interest in one of the workgroups:

**Survey team**: Give input on 2024 Student Health Survey topics and make recommendations on how surveys happen in classrooms and schools;

**Data team**: Review the current 2020 SHS results and help understand the data based on your experiences and what other students and community members are saying; or

**Communications team**: Help design messaging and communication about the SHS to students, families, schools and districts.

Is there anything else you would like to share that this application did not cover?

# Thank you for your time and sharing your experiences with us! We look forward to connecting with you soon about the Youth Data Council.