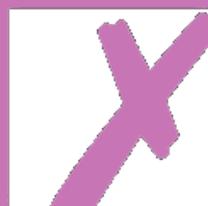




UK YOUTH PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS 2022: CANDIDATE PACK

This is a template candidate pack which can be edited by local authorities to distribute to potential MYP candidates in your area.

www.byc.org.uk



United Kingdom

Youth Parliament
MAKING OUR MARK

AN INTRO FROM CURRENT MYP'S

We recommend you begin your Candidate Pack with a brief profile of your Current Members of Youth Parliament. You may ask your current Member of Youth Parliament to write a paragraph about how they have found the experience and why others should apply.

Possible Questions to ask Members of Youth Parliament:

- How did you get involved?
- Why did you get involved?
- What have you learnt?
- What have you enjoyed?
- How do you understand the role of Member of Youth Parliament?

British Youth Council



The UK Youth Parliament is a programme supported by the British Youth Council.



STANDING AS A MEMBER OF YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Who Can Stand?

Any young person aged 11-18 can stand to be a Member of Youth Parliament. (Members of Youth Parliament must stand down on their 19th birthday). We'll be electing Members of Youth Parliament on a two year term to run until February 2024.

Constituencies:

You must live, work for a minimum of 14 hours, or be in education in the constituency in which you wish to stand for election. You cannot stand in more than one constituency in the same year's election.

Further information on constituencies can be found on the UK Parliament website- <http://www.parliament.uk/about/how/elections-and-voting/constituencies/>

BEING AN MEMBER OF YOUTH PARLIAMENT

The Role of an Member of Youth Parliament is to:

Engage

- Support youth voice and actively engage in their constituency
- Meet regularly with other youth councils, forums and organisations in their area
- Participate in UK Youth Parliament meetings, events, activities and consultations
- Engage in local, national and regional campaigns

Promote

- Promote the positive work of UK Youth Parliament
- Report UK Youth Parliament's work back to their constituency
- Communicate to the media as appropriate and under BYC media guidelines

Represent

- Speak on behalf of their constituents
- Encourage and support other young people in their area to engage in UK Youth Parliament activities
- Take the views of their constituents to UK Youth Parliament sittings
- Take part in votes on national policy and campaigns priority

Time Commitment

A Member of Youth Parliament's term in office lasts for two years. On average, you will need to spend between one and five hours per week on UK Youth Parliament activities.

Skills Development

Each Members of Youth Parliament's experience is likely to be different from the next, but in general Members of Youth Parliament will develop a combination of the following skills:

Communication, Public Speaking, Organisation, Negotiation, Debating, Teamwork and Leadership

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

UK Youth Parliament is funded by the UK Government, due to funding and the ongoing effects of Covid-19 it is difficult to give an exact outline of what activities incoming MYPs will engage with over their 2 year term.

But, to give you an idea of the opportunities available, have a look at the events that took place in 2018-19 and 2020-21. In 2020-21, MYPs have a 2 year term so the timeline of events is slightly different. The Make Your Mark consultation is now happening at the same time as Member of Youth Parliament elections and the issues which are most voted on become the three National Campaigns, you will focus on through your 2 years in office.

24th March 2018
Member of Youth Parliament Induction Day
|
March 2018 - February 2019
Local constituency work and progressing local campaigns
|
April 2019
Leadership Programme Residential
|
Summer 2018
UK Youth Parliament Annual Sitting
|
August-October 2018
Make Your Mark Consultation
|
November 2018
House of Commons Sitting
|
December 2018 - February 2019
Campaigning

Click to see some of the campaigns Members of Youth Parliament have been working on for an idea of what they got up to in 2020-21:



ELECTION TIMELINE

The timeline for Members of Youth Parliament elections will differ between Local Authorities to some extent. In your candidate pack you must include the overall timeline including deadlines so potential applicants know when they need to be available.

For Example:

22nd November 2021 - Candidate briefing session

06th December 2021- Expression of interest deadline

05th January 2022 - Candidate registration closes

1st February- 28th February 2022- Voting period

10th March 2022- Results announced

Some of these dates are concrete across LA's, such as the results announcement and 3rd March for the results to be sent to The British Youth Council.

CODE OF CONDUCT

This is a list of rules all candidates must follow when running to be a Member of Youth Parliament.

General:

1. As candidates, you are also responsible for the conduct of anyone who may be campaigning on your behalf. You will be held accountable if anyone breaks any election rules while campaigning on your behalf.
2. The UK Youth Parliament programme is non party political because of its charity status – therefore no party political campaigning is allowed.
3. All these rules apply equally to anything which may be produced as part of your campaign - verbal or written. This includes any online material.
4. Do not do anything other candidates will not have the same opportunity to do.
5. If in doubt, ask.

Campaigning:

1. Do not intimidate or harass any young people, staff or other candidates. You can canvass the support of young people, however you must be respectful towards people and leave them alone if they ask you to.
2. If you wish to make a short speech to yours or another class, this will be permitted at the discretion of the teaching staff that is taking the class. They reserve the right to refuse permission.

CODE OF CONDUCT CONT.

Election Literature:

1. Only put your election posters on existing notice boards. You must not cover up or take down existing notices or other candidate's literature. If you put your poster in other places they may be taken down. You have been warned. When putting your posters up please use common sense and do not fly post indiscriminately.

Respect for others:

- Treat other candidates how you wish to be treated.
- Personal attacks on other candidates are strictly forbidden. Any offensive or discriminatory behaviour that breaches the following statement is not allowed:

Equal Opportunities Statement:

"The British Youth Council is committed to the implementation of Equal Opportunities throughout its work. In its meetings, activities, services and as an employer, no person shall be discriminated against. This shall be regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, physical, sensory or learning disability, political or religious beliefs, responsibilities for dependants, marital status, socio-economic background, HIV status, trade union activity or on any other grounds that cannot be justified through the policy of the council".

Formal Complaints

Any complaints must be emailed to the Returning Officer. The Returning Officer will consider them and make a ruling. Please think carefully before you make a complaint, only do so if you feel it is absolutely necessary. You must not use these rules or the complaints procedure as a tactic to attack others. It is easy to see if this is the case and it will not be tolerated. Abuse of the complaints procedure is itself a serious offence and could endanger your place in the election.

Any complaints must be received before close of voting. The complaints procedure is available on www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk/ni

Disqualification of candidates

If any candidate breaks the election rules or regulations they risk being disqualified from the election without warning. Please bear this in mind. The Returning Officer's decision is final.

HELP, INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

Contact Details: It is imperative that potential candidates feel supported through the election process. **Signpost them to Local Authority Contacts here.**

More Information: Please find a range of resources and guidance at <https://www.byc.org.uk/uk/uk-youth-parliament/elections>

GLOSSARY

Candidate - A candidate is someone who is standing for election to be an Member of Youth Parliament .

Election - An election is a process in which people vote to choose a person or group of people to represent their interests.

Constituency - A constituency is the name for the geographical area a Member of Youth Parliament represents. In UK Youth Parliament, there are 18 constituencies in Northern Ireland, which match the constituencies of the UK Parliament.

Constituent - Within UK Youth Parliament, a constituent is someone who lives, attends education or works (14 hours or more) in your constituency. In an election, constituents vote for the candidate they would like to be their representative and once elected, a Member of Youth Parliament represents the views of their constituents.

Democracy - Democracy is a political system founded on the belief in freedom and equality among all people. In a democracy, power is held either directly by the people, or by elected representatives. UK Youth Parliament operates as a democracy, with Members of Youth Parliament being elected democratically and decisions within UK Youth Parliament being made democratically.

Campaign - A campaign is a planned set of activities that people carry out over a period of time in order to bring attention to an issue, and achieve something such as social or political change.

Policy - A policy is a set of ideas or plans that is used as a basis for making decisions, especially in politics, economics or business.

Manifesto - A manifesto is a public statement of policy, aims or priorities that is usually issued before an election by candidates. Manifestoes highlight what the candidate will focus on if elected and help constituents to decide who to vote for. When applying as a candidate for UK Youth Parliament, you will highlight your 'Top Issue,' which is your manifesto.

Consultation - A consultation is a process of discussing something with people in order to get their advice or opinion about it. Each year, MYPs carry out a consultation with young people all over the UK about the issues that are most important to them. This consultation is called 'Make Your Mark' and the top issues identified through 'Make Your Mark' are then debated by MYPs at the House of Commons Sitting.

Non-party political - Non-party political means that a person, group or organisation is not connected to any political party. UK Youth Parliament is a non-party political organisation.

Sitting - A sitting is the name given to a meeting of a group or committee of parliament. Each year, the UK Youth Parliament has an Annual Sitting and a House of Commons Sitting.