

Youth Council

Code of Conduct & Rules of Engagement

We want all young people to participate in the Young Mayors program safely and respectfully, and on an equitable playing field. All young people participating in the Young Mayors program must sign the Code of Conduct and Rules of Engagement below.

Definitions:

- **Nominee:** Young person nominating to be considered as a candidate to run for Youth Council election
- **Candidate:** Young person selected to run as a candidate for Youth Council election
- **Youth Councillor/Young Mayor:** Young person elected to represent the local government area youth community as a Youth Councillor and/or the Young Mayor. In different regions, there may be alternative terminology to describe these roles.

Code of Conduct

By submitting your [nomination](#) for the Youth Council, you agree to:

- Participate independently from any political party or ideology. The program is non-partisan and not affiliated with any political party or ideologies. If you're a member of a political party or subscribe to the views of a specific political party or politician, we'll ask you to park that at the door and participate independently of your party.
- Be respectful of all young people and the broader community throughout the program; act with integrity (e.g. honesty, transparent decision-making)

and treat others with kindness / empathy throughout the campaign and the Term in Office, if elected.

- Recognise that everyone brings their own opinions, ideas and lived experience; actively contribute to an open and inclusive space that welcomes diversity and treats all people equally regardless of culture, race, background, gender, sexuality, able-bodiedness, religion or class.
- If elected, work together with your fellow Youth Councillors on joint initiatives that respond to the issues and needs raised by your community.
- Ensure you continue to consult with young people in your community before making assertions and / or decisions about their needs and desires.
- Communicate with the Young Mayors Program team throughout the program, and ask for help if you need support. Some examples of when you could ask for support include:
 - an unpleasant feeling you're having about participating,
 - changes to your school or work schedule that interfere with participating
 - confusion about the program or what you should be doing,
 - challenges with other Youth Council team members
 - what you're enjoying about the program and want to do more of

Campaign Rules of Engagement

If you are selected as a candidate for election, you agree to:

- Use the t-shirts and budget provided by the Young Mayors program team to create campaign materials.
- Not accept or use any money or in-kind goods or services to campaign, beyond what is provided through the program.
- Use social media respectfully and appropriately, and through free platforms only; paid sponsorship or advertising is not permitted.
- Report any inappropriate or harmful commentary from other members of the Youth Council, FYA or Council staff, either online or in person, to the Young Mayors Program team immediately.

- Use local media (print, radio, television and online) through earned publicity only (such as on-air interviews); paid sponsorship or advertising is not permitted.
- Only put up campaign posters on approved buildings/structures.
- Be respectful towards, and about, your fellow candidates. Engage in constructive debate without using negative tactics to bring down other candidates, and do not mislead voters.

Any young person found to be breaching the Code of Conduct and/or Rules of Engagement will be contacted by the Young Mayors Team, if it is appropriate to work through the issue. If the issue cannot be resolved, participation in the program may be discontinued.