

# Homestead National Monument Youth Council 2018-2019 Application

**Welcome to the Homestead National Monument Youth Council program!**

*What is Homestead National Monument Youth Council?*

The Homestead National Monument Youth Council is a new initiative to involve a diverse group of high school juniors and seniors in cultivating skills in the following areas:

- Leadership
- Volunteerism
- Civic engagement
- Youth empowerment
- Stewardship for the National Park Service

As participants in this program, students will experience empowerment through interactive workshops, leadership training, and service projects. Expense-paid field trips to other national parks and related sites will also be part of the program. Students will be considered volunteers at Homestead National Monument of America and will be required to submit a completed volunteer agreement form. Students will be able to count their time in Homestead National Monument Youth Council towards any required volunteer hours.

*Purpose:*

The purpose of Homestead National Monument Council is to develop student leaders, raise consciousness in communities, and encourage creativity in education. Through the Homestead National Monument Youth Council program youth will be empowered to become agents of change and public servants within the National Park Service, and in their local communities.

*Vision:*

Students will be empowered to become active leaders and advocates of change in their communities. Students will gain an understanding and appreciation for the range, significance, and purpose of the National Park Service, and be among a diverse group of students who will be informed about future career possibilities in the NPS.

*Selection Criteria:*

The Selection Committee will objectively evaluate each applicant's leadership potential, engagement with community, and interests in the National Park Service. We anticipate selecting between eight to twelve participants. Students will be notified of their selection for Homestead National Monument Youth Council no later than September 19, 2018.

Preferential consideration will be given to current high school juniors and seniors and those students that recommend other students to apply.

Interested? Fill out the application!

**Submit completed applications to Homestead National Monument by 5:00 pm, September 12.**

## Personal Information

*Name, contact information, and references*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*First and last name*

Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*What would you like to be called?*

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Number/Street, City, State, Zip Code*

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*Cell/Home*

Preferred Method of Contact (Circle One):

Email

Cell Phone

Home Phone

Parent/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*First and Last Name*

## References

Please list two references (teachers, pastors, community leaders, coaches, mentors, etc.) who we may contact to learn more about your leadership potential and character strengths. Include first and last name, telephone number, and their relationship to you:

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## Education, Employment, and Community Service

### *Education*

Where do you currently go to school? \_\_\_\_\_  
(School name, grade level, and city or town)

### *Employment (if applicable)*

List your present employer, your position, the date you began working, and the hours per week you work.

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### *Community Service*

List community involvement, school clubs, athletics, religious, social, or other organizations you are or have been involved with in the past two (2) years. Be sure to include the name of the organization, the dates of membership, and positions you held.

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What have you accomplished in the organizations listed above that is important to you and/or made a difference in the community or the organization at large?

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### *Special Awards (if applicable)*

What awards, honors, projects, or recognition have you received for any leadership activities, volunteering, or other community involvement?

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**Application Questions**

*Please answer the following questions as best you can.*

What is leadership and what qualities make a good leader? In what ways do you try to exhibit these qualities?

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What is stewardship? In what ways can you exhibit good stewardship as it relates to public lands and the National Park Service?

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The Homestead Act was signed in 1862 by President Abraham Lincoln and was in effect for 123 years. Whether or not you are descended from a homesteader, how has the Homestead Act affected your life?

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What do you hope to gain from participation in the Homestead National Monument Youth Council and how do you hope the program will enhance your education or professional development?

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*Do you have skills in any of the following? (Check all that apply)*

- Public speaking
- Photography
- Graphic Design
- Running Meetings
- Research
- Essay Writing
- Community Outreach
- Event Planning
- Filmmaking
- Moderator/program facilitator
- Peer Recruiting

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Participant Commitment and Pledge**

*By submitting this application you agree to the following:*

1. I understand that regular attendance at monthly meetings and Homestead National Monument Youth Council field trips/special events is required. The first meeting will be Saturday, October 6, 2018. The final meeting for the school year will be Saturday, May 18, 2019. Most meetings will run from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Field trip days may start earlier and last longer.
2. It is my responsibility to inform park staff of my absence or withdrawal from the program. Students are afforded two absences from Homestead National Monument Youth Council meetings. More than two absences may result in removal from the program.

3. I understand it is my responsibility to secure my own transportation to and from meetings. All Homestead National Monument Youth Council meetings will begin at the Homestead National Monument Education Center located at 8523 West State Highway 4, Beatrice, NE 68310. Transportation to all field trips will be provided by Homestead National Monument.
4. I understand that there are all-day field trips and in-park service projects which participants will be expected to attend and participate. Expenses related to these trips and projects will be paid by the Homestead National Monument Youth Council program and not the participants.
5. I understand that a signed volunteer agreement form and a photo release form must be submitted if I am selected. If I am under 18 years of age, both forms will also need to be signed by my parent/guardian.
6. I understand that during each meeting, field trip, retreat, special event, or at other functions, I will be required to act in a dignified and respectful manner, particularly towards persons involved in the program. I also understand being a Homestead National Monument Youth Council participant may mean that I am exposed to people, ideas, or environments that are unfamiliar to me. I therefore agree to conduct myself in a professional and appropriate manner consistent with someone in a leadership role. I understand that my failure to do so may result in my removal from the Homestead National Monument Youth Council program.
7. I affirm that my involvement in the Homestead National Monument Youth Council is the beginning (or confirmation) of my active and ongoing participation with the National Park Service, community organizations and volunteer efforts.

Do you agree to the above (Circle One)?      Yes                      No

*Please note: if you are selected to participate in the Homestead National Monument Youth Council we will need a signed/dated hard copy of this pledge on file with signatures from yourself and your parent/guardian.*