

Imperial Valley Congressional Youth Advisory Council

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What are the benefits of participating in the Imperial Valley Congressional Youth Advisory Council (IVCYAC)?

Membership in the IVCYAC is a unique opportunity for high school students between the ages 14-17 to gain leadership experience and learn about politics. Members of this council will serve their peers by sharing their ideas and concerns with Congressman Juan Vargas' office in the Imperial Valley. Our goal is that young people be recognized and included as an essential and strong component in the decision-making processes regarding matters that impact youth in the Imperial Valley.

Council members will gain valuable experience as they engage in:

- Positive change in their communities;
- Collaboration with other community and youth organizations;
- Activities to enhance public speaking, critical thinking and team building skills; and
- Communication with Congressman Juan Vargas.

What is the time commitment for members of the IVCYAC?

Youth selected to serve on the IVCYAC will commit four hours of service per month. They are expected to attend monthly meetings and participate in community activities. Members will serve one-year terms that include activities during the academic year and the summer.

When and where will the monthly meetings take place?

The first meeting will take place on Tuesday February 12, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. with the location to be determined. Future meeting dates and locations will be selected at this first meeting. The intention is to rotate the meeting location on a monthly basis at various school sites.

Are members of the IVCYAC able to receive community service hours for their participation?

Yes. Members can receive community service hours for their attendance and participation at meetings and activities related to the IVCYAC.

Are members of the IVCYAC paid?

No. Members of the IVCYAC are volunteers during a term of office. Therefore, they are not paid. However, they are eligible to receive community service hours.

Does the IVCYAC only select A-students?

No. The IVCYAC seeks members with various skills and ability levels. However, given the time commitment required by participation, we seek youth who can effectively balance their academic requirements, extracurricular activities, and other obligations with their commitment to the IVCYAC.

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Do I need to be a native of the Imperial Valley to become a member of the IVCYAC?

No. However, members of the IVCYAC are required to be residents of the Imperial Valley for at least two years and be enrolled at an Imperial Valley high school.

Do I need to know a lot about politics in order to become a member of the IVCYAC?

No. Youth selected to serve on the IVCYAC will have an interest in the issues that affect their community and will learn a great deal about the functions of government offices and the political processes in the Imperial Valley.

What documents must be submitted to successfully complete the application process for the IVCYAC?

All applicants must submit a complete application packet in order to be considered for the IVCYAC. This application packet includes:

- A completed and signed application form;
- A letter of recommendation; and
- Proofs of U.S. citizenship, residency in the Imperial Valley, and identification card or driver's license.