



YAC National League of Cities Conference Application

The [Congressional City Conference 2026](#) will be held in Washington, D.C. This annual event, organized by the National League of Cities, provides local leaders a platform to engage with members of Congress, discuss policies, and network with other government officials. It's an excellent opportunity for participants to learn about federal policies, explore ways to strengthen local-federal partnerships, and gain valuable insights to better serve their communities.

Each year, the National League of Cities brings together youth councils from across the country to collaborate and learn from each other. The Congressional City Conference Youth Program is peer-led and youth created by the youth representatives who sit on NLC's Council on Youth, Education and Families (YEF Council). Sessions are planned by the youth and executed by the youth.

Date

Saturday, March 14 – Wednesday, March 18, 2026.

We will arrive in Washington D.C. on Saturday, March 14, and will begin sightseeing after getting checked into the hotel. The conference begins on Saturday, March 14, and we depart from DC on the last day of the conference: Wednesday, March 18.

Before applying for this opportunity, please ensure that you are available to travel during these dates.

Cost

The City of Gresham will pay for airfare, hotel, conference fees, transportation, sightseeing opportunities, and provide a stipend per day for meals. Youth delegates are responsible for any other costs.

Eligibility and Selection

All Gresham-Barlow, Centennial, and Reynolds high school students are eligible to apply. Application materials will be the biggest factor in the selection of members for this experience, and emphasis will be given to those:

- Who have demonstrated leadership at school or in their community;
- Who have taken on significant responsibilities at home or in their community;
- and/or those engaged in community service.

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

CITY OF GRESHAM

Selected applicants must agree to join the Gresham Youth Advisory Council (if not already members) for the 2026-27 school year (if not seniors this year). Those selected will also agree to meet up to three times prior to the trip to work on project proposals (see below) and logistics.

Application Materials

Deadline: Friday, January 9, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Applications must be submitted via email to YAC@GreshamOregon.gov with the subject heading "YAC NLC Application Materials".

Acceptable formats for materials are Word files or PDFs.

1. Personal Information

- Full Legal Name and Date of Birth (for air travel purposes)
- Parent/Guardian Full Name and Contact Information (Phone/Email)

2. Project Proposal – no longer than 5 pages

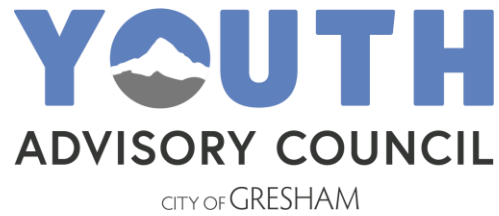
This trip is being made possible by funding from EMOPI (East Multnomah Outreach Prevention Intervention). As a result, the individuals attending this trip will need to develop a project to aid in EMOPI's efforts.

You will submit a project proposal that answers the questions below.

- What is the main goal of your project and what impact will it have on Gresham's youth?
- Does the scope of your project fit within EMOPI's Outreach, Prevention, or Intervention objective?
- What data is available to support the importance of your project goal? Data specific to East Metro, Multnomah County, or Gresham. Cite your sources.
- Is your project aligned with existing EMOPI partnerships/ projects? How? If not, why did you decide to go in this direction?
- How will attending this conference help you to reach your project's goal?
- Please include a timeline for your project from start to completion.

3. Letter of Interest – no longer than 1 page

- Why are you the best candidate to be an NLC Delegate, and why should you go? How have you displayed leadership, taken on additional responsibilities, and/or served your community?

**Request Feedback**

Feedback is available upon request before the deadline; applicants are encouraged to request feedback early, especially before holidays. Email Chris Fick at chris.fick@greshamoregon.gov with your documents and specific questions.

Confirmation and Notification

Email confirmations will be sent upon receipt of applications. Applicants will be notified of their status within 1-3 weeks of the deadline.