

# Overview

Warren County Youth Leadership (WCYL) is a leadership development program designed to broaden the participants' understanding of leadership, expose participants to leaders within our community, instill in each participant a love for and pride in McMinnville and Warren County, and create, through the activities of WCYL, a fun, exciting, and life-lasting experience for each participant.

## Application Checklist

- Completed Application
- References completed in a sealed envelope
- Signatures from you, your parent or guardian, and a school official

## Selection Process

1. The application with all required components must be received (not postmarked) at the McMinnville-Warren County Chamber of Commerce **ON OR BEFORE: July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026**.
2. The Selection Committee will review only completed applications submitted by the deadline. Applications are screened blindly, that is, all reference to the student's name, school, and other applicant data is removed before the committee reviews each application. No person shall, on the ground of race, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination.
3. The application will be judged on the following guidelines:
  - Leadership experience or potential
  - Involvement in family, school, church, community, and/or civic organizations
  - Cooperative nature and willingness to participate in a group
  - Awareness of current events
  - Strong communication skills
  - Good performance in school
  - Enthusiasm for sharing new-found skills with others
  - Commitment to WCYL

### **Points will be rewarded in the following areas:**

- **Completion of the application** (5 pts.)
- **Letters of Reference:** (15 pts.) Indicates participant meets the guidelines as stated and addresses character, responsibility, and work ethic.
- **Organizations & Activities** (15 pts.) School, non-school, or nonemployment organizations & activities, work & volunteer experiences

### **General Information Section**

- Description of self (15 pts.)
  - Education & career goals (5 pts.)
  - Role Model questions (15 pts.)
  - Current events, identifying problems, and creating change (30 pts.)
4. Do not use additional pages. The application form will be the only information considered.
  5. All applicants will be notified of selection by August 14th, 2026 by mail and email.
  6. A **mandatory** orientation for selected participants and parents will be held September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 PM.
  7. Fair Day is the **mandatory** retreat held in September.

# Program Requirements

**Please read each statement carefully. Participants & guardians will initial in the blank beside each one to indicate your understanding and agreement.**

1. ☐ Enrollment is open to juniors only with a C (75-84) average or above. Failing to meet the requirement throughout WCYL may result in dismissal from the program.
2. ☐ The success of this program depends upon the commitment of each participant to punctuality and full attendance. Tardiness or absence is unfair and disrespectful to the speakers who give freely and willingly of their time. Accordingly, recognition for completing the program depends on punctuality and attendance at all programs, including project meetings, the **Chamber's Annual Banquet, Bologna Day in March, and completing service hours. 100% attendance is expected at all sessions including graduation.** Absences due to extenuating circumstances (i.e. death in the family, illness) may be excused. If a participant misses a session, the session must be made up in order to graduate. Absences will be reported to the school principal. Repeated absences will result in dismissal from the program. If school is cancelled due to inclement weather, the session will also be cancelled.  
  
☐ **I understand that participation in the Warren County Youth Leadership (WCYL) program may require communication with my teachers, coaches, and other extracurricular leaders.**  
☐ **I have discussed the WCYL program and its attendance requirements with my teachers, coaches, and any other necessary individuals prior to completing this application.**  
☐ **I understand that attendance at each full-day session is mandatory, and absences — including those due to sports, extracurricular activities, or other commitments — will not be excused.**  
☐ I understand that failure to attend any part of a scheduled session may affect my ability to successfully complete the program and graduate from WCYL.
3. ☐ Two sealed letters of recommendation from individuals other than a parent or relative are required. One reference must be a teacher or counselor from the past two years, the second may be a personal reference of your choice that you have known for at least two years. (See last two pages.)
4. ☐ Participants must confirm with the WCYL class liaison the week before the scheduled class to confirm participation. A copy of attendees will be emailed along with the session's agenda to the principal of each school. **If for some reason you are unable to attend the session at the last minute, you must notify your school and the WCYL class liaison.**
5. ☐ If accepted into WCYL, there is a program fee of \$100 to cover some of the cost of the program. **The fee is due at the orientation session.**
6. ☐ **The orientation session is mandatory for participants and your parent/guardian. Failure to attend for any reason other than illness, serious accident or death in the family, will result in disqualification from the program.**
7. ☐ Any type of disciplinary action given to the participants by school officials will also apply to the participant's involvement in WCYL.
8. ☐ Dress code will follow the same guidelines as issued by the Warren County School System. The class will either wear class shirts, black pants, name tags, and comfortable shoes, **OR** a white button up, sweater, or polo with black pants, name tags, and comfortable shoes.
9. ☐ Students will be photographed, filmed, or videotaped during the course of their participation in WCYL.

# **WCYL Individual Projects**

**Please read each statement carefully. Participants & guardians initial in the blank beside each one to indicate your understanding and agreement.**

## **Mandatory Meeting**

- \_\_\_ Participants will be **required** to attend the Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet in March.

## **Choose one of the following activities:**

- \_\_\_ Attend Warren County School Board Meeting
- \_\_\_ Attend Warren County Commission Meeting
- \_\_\_ Attend Mayor and Board of Aldermen Meeting

# **Program And Schedule**

**ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED AT ALL SESSIONS.**

## **Program Dates**

- The WCYL program begins in September and concludes in May.
- Class sessions will be scheduled on a Friday of each month, with the exception of Bologna Day in March. The dates will be given at the orientation meeting, except for Bologna Day's date, which will be announced in March.
- The first sessions (Orientation and Fair Day) will occur in September and are mandatory events.
- The last session (graduation) will be held in May.

## **Program Topics**

- Program topics include agriculture, tourism, education, business & industry, Warren County history, law, local government, state government, healthcare, and communications.

***All sessions begin at 8:00 am and conclude at 3:00 pm unless otherwise noted. All sessions begin at the Chamber of Commerce.***

## The logo for Warren County Youth Leadership is a circular emblem. At the top, the words "WARREN COUNTY" are written in a dark green, serif font, following the curve of the upper border. At the bottom, the words "YOUTH LEADERSHIP" are written in a brown, serif font, following the curve of the lower border. The central design is a stylized flower with five white petals, each outlined in orange. The flower is superimposed on a compass rose with four orange points. The entire design is set against a blue circular background with white concentric circles and small white dots. The logo is centered on a light gray background.

|                                   |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Full Name:                        | Name Used:   |
| Home Address:                     |              |
| Email Address:                    | Cell Phone:  |
| Date of Birth:                    | Female/Male: |
| School Presently Attending & GPA: |              |

I attest that all information provided is correct. I have read and understand the program requirements, and if selected, I will meet them.

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Applicant's Signature Date

I am the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, I have read the information on the WCYL program and am willing to have my child participate. **I understand that attendance at all sessions including orientation and graduation is mandatory.** WCYL, its agents, and its employees have my full permission and consent to transport and otherwise provide transportation for my child by bus, private automobile, vans, or other appropriate means of transportation in connection with all sessions of WCYL during the school year in which they are a participant. I understand that WCYL and the McMinnville-Warren County Chamber of Commerce are not liable for students who choose to drive themselves or ride with others during class days. Students may be photographed or filmed during the course of their participation in WCYL. I hereby give permission for WCYL to record images of my son/daughter in the course of normal activities during the program and to use resultant products for employees or any individuals involved in the planning, organization, or presentation of WCYL for any accident, injury, illness, or any damage whatsoever related to the above-mentioned student's attendance at or participation in any activity or session of WCYL.

Parent(s)/Legal Guardian Name: (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent(s)/Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you a Dual Enrollment Student? Yes \_\_\_ No\_\_\_**

**Organizations And Activities:**

List **in order of importance to you** up to five school organizations and non-school (For example: community/civic/religious/scouting/volunteer/athletic, etc.) related activities in which you participated during the last four years. Please do not abbreviate organization names.

|    | Activity/Organization | Leadership Responsibility/Involvement |
|----|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. |                       |                                       |
| 2. |                       |                                       |
| 3. |                       |                                       |
| 4. |                       |                                       |
| 5. |                       |                                       |

**Work Experience**

List any part-time job experiences, paid or volunteer, and briefly tell what it involved.

|    | From/To | Position | Responsibility/Involvement |
|----|---------|----------|----------------------------|
| 1. |         |          |                            |
| 2. |         |          |                            |
| 3. |         |          |                            |

**Will you be or are you working during the 2025-2026 school year? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_**

**If so, how many hours do you work during the week? \_\_\_\_\_**

**Do you have any extracurricular activities that will interfere with attending a full day session? Yes \_\_\_ No\_\_\_**

**Explain (Please be specific)**

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**DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR NAME IN ANY TEXT  
OR AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE.**

**DESCRIPTION OF SELF**

Write a paragraph (50 words or less) describing yourself including hobbies, interests, and career goals.

Which session listed previously interests you the most? What would you like to learn from this session?

Why do you want to be in the WCYL program?

**DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR NAME IN ANY TEXT  
OR AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE.**

## **ROLE MODELS**

Identify someone you admire. Describe what you value in them.

If you could spend a day with a current world leader, artist, or sports star, who would you choose and why?

How can you be a role model for younger children in your community?

## **CURRENT EVENTS, IDENTIFYING PROBLEMS, & CREATING CHANGE**

Discuss one specific problem you have observed in your school or Warren County. Tell why it's important, the issues it raises, and make at least one suggestion for its solution.

# Warren County Youth Leadership

## Reference Form

1. How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?

2. Are there any areas in which the applicant could improve or benefit from participating in WCYL?

3. Please rank the applicant's ability in the following areas by circling the appropriate number with 5 being the highest and 1 being the lowest:

- Ability to communicate with others: 5 4 3 2 1
- Participation when in a group setting: 5 4 3 2 1
- Interest in community affairs: 5 4 3 2 1
- Potential for becoming an involved community citizen: 5 4 3 2 1
- Ability to lead peers: 5 4 3 2 1

Additional comments:

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WCYL appreciates your time and willingness to complete this form. If you have any questions, please contact Lakelinn Simmons at the Chamber of Commerce at (931) 473-6611.

Please return this completed form to the applicant in a sealed envelope.

(Please write the student's name on the **BACK** of the page.)

**REFERENCE FORMS MUST BE RETURNED WITH THE APPLICATION. NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT BOTH REFERENCE FORMS.**

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# Warren County Youth Leadership

## Principal Consent Form

All applicants **MUST** have the approval of their school principal to attend the mandatory sessions of Warren County Youth Leadership. Please have your principal sign below:

I approve the participation of \_\_\_\_\_ (student name) in the WCYL program for 2025-2026. The student meets the criteria of being academically sound.

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Principal's Name

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Principal's Signature

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School



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Date

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School Phone