



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN YOUTH COMMISSION INTRODUCTION 2025

Purpose: To increase outreach and facilitate youth engagement within and for Meridian Charter Township. The Commissioners will partake in event planning and local civics education to emphasize the importance of youth presence in the community, as well as how Meridian Township operates as a local unit of government within the State of Michigan.

Qualifications

- You are between the ages of 14-19.
- You are currently a Meridian Township resident and/or attend a school within the Township.
- You are a self-motivated student, an innovative thinker encouraged by different learning experiences, and willing to educate your peers on local government initiatives.
- You are a student with strong leadership skills. You are not required to have prior leadership experiences, but you should be able to convey how you have shown leadership.
 - For example, if you are a dog owner, how have you shown leadership with the dog? Did you create a walk schedule, teach them a new trick, tell your parents that it is not okay to feed the dog table scraps, etc.
- You will be asked to meet at least **once a month**. You may attend additional meetings if needed.

There are four positions to apply to:

- **Event Planning:** These students will work to brainstorm and plan events that Meridian Township could host, bringing fresh ideas and creativity to the community. They will develop engaging activities that appeal to a wide range of residents, ensuring inclusivity and participation. Through teamwork and research, they will identify opportunities for seasonal celebrations, cultural festivals, and recreational gatherings.
- **Policy Researcher:** These students will work as an advisory commission and write bylaws of the Youth Commission. This group of students will research new policies in departments and then give their own recommendations.
- In addition to this: all students will choose which Township Board Meeting they are interested in attending, research the policy(s) for that subject, and present their findings to the students who hold the *Policy Researcher* position.
- **Finance:** These students will form and maintain a mock budget, which will be later used as the official annual budget, allocating funds to events and programs based on the budget. Students in Finance will also fundraise for the Commission, reaching out to communities across Meridian Township.
- **Marketing:** These students will work together to form marketing materials (creating social media posts and flyers and reaching out to community members) and ensure a constant stream of communication between Meridian Township staff and Youth Commission students.

Application Process:

- Complete the Google Form for Meridian Charter Township Youth Commission and include your parent/guardian's authorization to participate in the Commission.
- Applications will be received by the Township Manager, Economic Development Director, and Township Board.
- The Township Board Chair may reach out to potential candidates for a short interview.
- At a general meeting of the Township Board, accepted applicants will be approved for the Youth Commission appointments. Any appointed Youth Commission Member will complete the formal Commissioner process by being sworn in by the Township Clerk, recognizing the [Meridian Township Appointed Officials Ethics Statement](#).