

McKinney Youth Leadership

A Program of the Rotary Club of McKinney

2026-2027 Fact Sheet and Application Form

The McKinney Youth Leadership Mission is... To provide an opportunity for young people from diverse social, economic, racial, and geographic backgrounds who attend school or live in the McKinney area to develop and use leadership potential in a way that positively impacts themselves, their families, their schools, and their community.

McKinney Youth Leadership Objectives are...

- To provide and encourage interaction between students, business, and community leaders and decision-makers.
- To build awareness of the community's positive aspects as well as issues the community faces to encourage voluntary participation in community affairs and activities.
- To provide insights into the decision-making process and to enhance individual and group problem-solving skills.
- To enhance personal skills and help build each student's self-esteem, character, confidence, self-image, and self-respect.
- To create the opportunity for students to make a difference in their schools and their community by using and sharing their leadership skills.

Class Size: Students will be selected from applications from high school freshmen. The goal is to have a diverse group from all students who live in the McKinney area.

Selection Process: High school freshmen will submit applications by June 15, 2026. Students will be notified via email of acceptance into the program by June 30, 2026.

Coordination: A steering committee from the McKinney Rotary Club plans and implements the program. At least two Rotarians chaperone each event and remain at the venue until all students are picked up at the end of the evening. Each student is responsible for providing his/her own transportation to/from each event. **The chaperones can not transport students under any circumstances.**

Program Length: The program consists of a monthly session and an individual service project. It runs from September through April.

Contact: Call Betty Petkovsek at 214-578-7659 or email her at betpetko@gmail.com or call Becky Fortenberry at 817-253-1291 or email her at sforten@sbcglobal.net for further information.

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Criteria for Candidates:

1. Must currently be enrolled in the 9th grade (incoming sophomores in Fall 2026) and attend school or live in the McKinney area.
2. Must receive permission from a parent/guardian.
3. Must attend the mandatory session in September.

McKinney Youth Leadership Attendance Policy:

Orientation: Thursday, September 10, 2026 — 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Orientation - Students and parents

The calendar for the entire program will be distributed at this meeting.

Monthly Sessions: Proposed Schedule for September 2026 - April 2027:

Session 1: Thursday, September 10, 2026 — 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. (Students and parents)

Session 2: Thursday, October 8, 2026 — 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Session 3: Thursday, November 12, 2026 — 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Session 4: Thursday, December 3, 2026— 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Session 5: Thursday, January 14, 2027 — 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Session 6: Wednesday, February 10, 2027 — 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Session 7: Thursday, March 11, 2027— 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Session 8: Thursday, April 8, 2027 — 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Selection Process:

To be considered for selection as a participant in McKinney Youth Leadership, students must follow these guidelines:

1. Complete the application in its entirety. **Please TYPE the application.**
2. Ensure the application is postmarked no later than June 15, 2026.
3. Mail application to: McKinney Rotary Club – P.O. Box 552 – McKinney, TX 75070
Attention: McKinney Rotary Youth Leadership -Betty Petkovsek and Becky Fortenberry
4. A fee of \$ 50 will be collected at the first meeting, once you are accepted. Please do not include the fee with your application. Scholarships are available.

The McKinney Rotary Youth Leadership Steering Committee will make the student selections, and participants will be notified of acceptance via email by June 30, 2026.

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2026-2027 Application Form

Instructions:

Section 1 to be completed by applicant. Please **TYPE** the application.

Section 2 to be signed by applicant and a parent/legal guardian.

Mail the completed application to:

McKinney Rotary Club
Attention: Youth Leadership - Betty Petkovsek and Becky
Fortenberry
P.O. Box 552
McKinney, Texas 75070

In filling out the application, please take into consideration the following:

- The only way we will know you and your qualifications is by how you answer all of the questions. It is important that you answer the questions fully.
- Please **TYPE**. Databases have to be created and we want to accurately capture your contact information. We also want to be able to read the answers to the essay questions and your emails.
- Take particular caution in entering your email address. This is how we will be communicating with you. You are invited/encouraged to offer us two or three email addresses to ensure good communication.
- Please review the schedule for the year so that you can ensure good attendance.

Applications must be received/postmarked NO LATER THAN June 15, 2026.

Participants will be notified via email by June 30, 2026.

Section 1--To be completed by applicant

TYPE

First Name _____ Last Name _____

School _____

Date of Birth _____ Gender _____ Shirt Size (Please circle one) S M L XL XXL

(You will receive a MYL shirt to wear to each of the sessions.)

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Applicant Email(s) _____

Mother/Guardian Name _____

Mother/Guardian Work/Home Phone _____

Mother/Guardian Mobile Phone _____

Mother/Guardian Email _____
Father/Guardian Name _____
Father/Guardian Work/Home Phone _____
Father/Guardian Mobile Phone _____
Father/Guardian Email _____
Other _____

Note: Email will be the primary means of communication.

ORGANIZATIONS, ACTIVITIES, INTERESTS

List, in order of importance to you, up to four school, volunteer, religious, social, athletic, or special activities in which you have participated during the last three years. Please explain your role/ the depth of your participation.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

WORK EXPERIENCE

Do you currently work? _____ Number of hours per week? _____

Company name? _____

Will your job provide you with the flexibility to participate in Saturday and evening events?

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Using a few words, phrases, or adjectives, please describe yourself.

2. List three things that concern you the most about your community. How do you feel one of these concerns should be addressed?

3. Why do you want to participate in the McKinney Youth Leadership Program?

4. What specific goals are you committed to attaining your senior year, based on the skills you acquire from participation in the McKinney Youth Leadership Program?

Section 2--Signature Page

Applicant:

I am aware of the importance of attending all McKinney Youth Leadership sessions and understand that the first session in September is MANDATORY. I have read, I understand, and I agree to the MYL Attendance Policy.

Signature of Student

Date

Printed Name: _____

For and in consideration of participation in the McKinney Youth Leadership Program, a program of The Rotary Club of McKinney, the undersigned parent or legal guardian for and on behalf of the above named student, his or her heirs, executors, and assigns, does hereby release, indemnify and hold harmless The Rotary Club of McKinney, the McKinney Youth Leadership Committee, their agents, officers, and employees from any and all claims, damages, personal injury, including death and property damage resulting directly or indirectly from the McKinney Youth Leadership Program, including the planning, organization and presentation of the program as well as transportation to and from all program activities.

The undersigned parent or legal guardian affirms to the Rotary Club of McKinney and the McKinney Youth Leadership Committee, its agents, officers and employees that the parent/legal guardian will transport or provide transportation whether by public bus service, private or commercial automobile or other appropriate vehicle for the named student to and from all program activities. All still and video photography becomes the property of the McKinney Youth Leadership Program.

My son/daughter has my support and permission to participate in the McKinney Youth Leadership Program. I have read, I understand and I agree to the MYL attendance policy and will ensure that my son/daughter attends all sessions. I understand that the first session in September is MANDATORY.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date