



Thank you for your interest in participating in the NCACC Youth Summit! The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) and its partners, North Carolina 4-H, Boys & Girls Clubs of North Carolina and NC FFA, are proud to sponsor YouthVoice for the fifth consecutive year, Aug. 15-16, 2014, in Buncombe County. We hope that participants will find the Youth Summit to be a rewarding experience with more opportunities to learn about what county governments do and how they operate, and the role of county commissioners as the governing body for counties.

The Youth Summit is held in conjunction with the NCACC's Annual Conference, and you will be attending several events with elected and appointed county officials. You are expected to conduct yourself accordingly (abiding by the N.C. 4-H Youth Development Code of Conduct, as indicated on the registration form), and dress appropriately. Casual dress is acceptable for Friday's events; you will be provided a Youth Summit T-shirt upon check-in. You will need to wear khaki or black pants or appropriate length shorts on Friday night. Comfortable walking shoes are encouraged for Friday. Flip-flops are not acceptable at any time during the conference. Slacks and a collared shirt (at a minimum) are required for Saturday's portion of the Summit.

Prior to submitting your registration, you will need to complete three assignments: 1) interview a county commissioner, or meet with the county manager and tour the county administrative building; 2) attend a Board of County Commissioners meeting (or make plans to attend a meeting); and 3) submit a report (written or video/multimedia) or scrapbook of your county commissioner interview/county experience.

Your county's Clerk to the Board of Commissioners is a great resource to set up an interview with a county commissioner, a meeting with the county manager and a visit to the county administrative building. The clerk can let county officials know that you plan to attend a Board of Commissioners meeting prior to the NCACC Annual Conference. Sample interview questions and general instructions for reports are included on the next page. You are encouraged to request to be recognized at your Board of Commissioners meeting so that your county commissioners can more easily recognize you when they see you at the Youth Summit.

The NCACC covers the cost for this event for a select number of youth (one per county for NC 4-H and one per Boys & Girls Club) and chaperones. If you withdraw from the event after the July 3 deadline (without finding a substitute of the same age and gender and notifying the NCACC), or you do not attend the event or are asked to leave for misconduct, you will be required to reimburse the NCACC the cost of accommodations, meals and transportation expenses (\$130).

You and your chaperone are also responsible for arranging for transportation to and from the event. Chaperones who provide transportation for three or more youth delegates will be eligible to receive a gas card to offset transportation expenses.

We are looking forward to a great event! If you have questions, contact Jason King at (919) 715-0045 or Sarah Kotzian at (919) 515-8480.



# YouthVoice 2014

Fifth Annual NCACC Youth Summit

Aug. 15-16, 2014, Buncombe County

## Pre-Summit Assignments

### Example questions for County Commissioners

- How long have you served on the Board? Will you run for re-election when your current term expires?
- What are your local priorities, or what county issues hold the most importance to you?
- Are there long-term concerns you have about our county? What role does the Board of Commissioners play in addressing those concerns?
- What are the biggest issues that citizens ask you about?
- What are some of the responsibilities for county governments that you were not aware of when you ran for office?
- What are the hardest decisions you've faced as a county commissioner?

### Example questions for County Managers

- What is the county manager's role?
- How do you interact with and report to county commissioners?
- Can you explain how the annual budget process works?
- What other county employees do you work closely with when drafting a budget proposal?

If you choose to meet with the county manager, ask them to show you around the county administrative building (or the building that houses the county manager's office) and talk to employees from as many departments as you can.

### General instructions for reports

- Please include your name and county on your submission (written or electronic).
- In general, keep written reports in the 500-word range.
- If you are submitting a scrapbook report, you may bring this with you to the Summit. We are happy to return materials after the Annual Conference concludes.
- If you are producing a video report, aim for something in the range of 2 minutes. MP4 or MOV formats are preferred, although we can accept most formats. We suggest sharing the file via Google, DropBox or other service.
- If you have questions, contact Jason King at [jason.king@ncacc.org](mailto:jason.king@ncacc.org) or (919) 715-0045.
- You can see examples of what 2013 youth delegates submitted for their reports at [www.welcometoyourcounty.org/content/youth\\_summit\\_2013.shtm](http://www.welcometoyourcounty.org/content/youth_summit_2013.shtm).

