



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 19, 2025

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Mississippi Agriculture Youth Council Applications are Now Open

JACKSON, Miss. – As part of the National Ag Week activities, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson announced the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) is now accepting applications for the 2025-2026 Mississippi Agriculture Youth Council. This statewide youth council is a unique program to enhance leadership skills, promote career development and provide industry exposure for high school students interested in agriculture.

For one academic year, selected council members will engage in hands-on experiences to broaden their understanding of Mississippi's agriculture industry. Participants will have opportunities to visit leading agriculture companies and organizations, learn about agriculture advocacy and legislative processes, shadow industry professionals, and hone their professional skills. These experiences are designed to cultivate leadership and foster career growth while helping develop Mississippi's future agriculture workforce. Any public, private, or homeschool student can apply to become a member of the Agriculture Youth Council, with representatives of MDAC choosing final applicants.

The Mississippi Agriculture Youth Council is open to qualified high school students across the state. To be eligible, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

- Students must currently be in their junior year of high school to serve during their senior year, August 2025 – May 2026.
- Any public, private or homeschool student may apply.
- Students must exhibit an interest, passion and/or experiences in agriculture.

The application period is March 18 – April 18, 2025. All application materials must be submitted via the online portal at agnet.mdac.ms.gov/youthcouncil/. Semi-finalists will be notified by April 25, 2025. Final interviews will be held virtually, and 14 youth leaders will be announced by Friday, May 16, 2025.

For more information about the Mississippi Agriculture Youth Council and the application process, visit <https://www.mdac.ms.gov/mayc/> or contact Nick Hall at Nick@mdac.ms.gov or 601-356-1100.

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Flyer attached.



Mississippi Agriculture Youth Council 2025-2026 Applications

Mission Statement and Goal

- To enhance Mississippi's future leaders through career development, industry exposure, and experiential learning.
- To provide students pursuing a future in agriculture with experiences which cultivate leadership, foster career development, and enhance the workforce of Mississippi.

Who is eligible to be a member of the MS Agriculture Youth Council?

- Current high school juniors to serve their senior year, August - May.
- Any public, private, or homeschooled student may apply.
- Student must exhibit interests, passions, and/or experiences in agriculture.

For more information, contact
Nick Hall at 601-359-1100 or
Nick@mdac.ms.gov



How do you apply?

Upload the following required files/documents to the online portal at mdac.ms.gov/mayc/

- Resume
- Video Submission - Video can be uploaded on the portal but it is prefer you upload it to Youtube and share the link on the portal .
 - Introduce yourself
 - Describe your experience(s) within agriculture
 - Why you are interested in learning more about agriculture
 - What you hope to gain from this experience, if selected
- Two separate letters of recommendation. These letters may be from teachers, employers, supervisors and/or mentors.
- Undergo an online interview after the application deadline, if requested.

Applications open March 18
Application Deadline: April 18
Scan QR code for application