



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Commissioner Gipson Announces New Mississippi Agriculture Youth Council

JACKSON, Miss. – Today, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson announced the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) is launching the new Mississippi Agriculture Youth Council.

The goal of this Council, comprised of youth leaders from around the state, is to provide students interested in the agriculture industry an experience that cultivates leadership and career development while developing the potential workforce for Mississippi. Any public, private or homeschool students can apply to become a member of the Agriculture Youth Council, and final applicants will be chosen by representatives at MDAC.

“I am so excited to launch the first-ever Mississippi Agriculture Youth Council,” said Commissioner Gipson. “As the future of agriculture in our state, we are proud to give these students the opportunity to develop leadership, advocacy and employability skills through professional development, industry exposure and experiential learning in a variety of agriculture careers. So, I want to invite any youth leaders and students interested in the agriculture industry to apply for this incredible opportunity to serve during your senior year of high school. We will choose 12-15 students as members to serve on the Council for one year.”

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be a 12th grade student during the 2021-2022 school year. Current 11th graders in the 2020-2021 school year may apply to serve during the upcoming school year.
- Any public, private or homeschool students may apply.
- Students must exhibit an interest, passion and/or experiences in agriculture.

Applications can be found online at agnetuat.mdac.ms.gov/youthcouncil/. All applications are due by Thursday, April 1, 2021. Semifinalists will be notified by April 15, 2021. Final interviews will be held virtually, and 12-15 youth leaders will be announced by Friday, May 14, 2021.

For more information about the Mississippi Agriculture Youth Council, visit www.mdac.ms.gov or contact Gayle Fortenberry at gayle@mdac.ms.gov or Emily Stovall at emilys@mdac.ms.gov.

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Flyer attached.



MISSISSIPPI *Agriculture* YOUTH COUNCIL



WHAT IS THE AGRICULTURE YOUTH COUNCIL AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

This council was created by the Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, Andy Gipson, in order to provide future leaders of the agriculture industry an experience that cultivates leadership and career development and broadens horizons while developing the potential workforce for Mississippi. Council members will visit Mississippi agricultural companies and organizations, learn about the legislative process and how it affects the agriculture industry, shadow industry professionals and hone professional skills. Members will serve a one-year term on the council.

MISSION STATEMENT:

To develop future leaders in Mississippi through leadership and career development, industry exposure and experiential learning.

OUR GOAL:

To provide an opportunity for Mississippi's young agricultural leaders to develop leadership, advocacy and employability skills through professional development, industry exposure and experiential learning in a variety of agriculture careers.

WHAT IS THE SELECTION PROCESS AND HOW MANY ARE CHOSEN?

The Agriculture Youth Council is chosen by representatives in the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce. Applications are due April 1, 2021. The electronic application can be found at <https://agnetuat.mdac.ms.gov/youthcouncil/>. Semifinalists will be notified by April 15, 2021. Final interviews will be held virtually and 12-15 youth leaders will be announced by May 14, 2021.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE AGRICULTURE YOUTH COUNCIL?

- High school juniors in school year 2021 to serve their senior year
- Any public, private or homeschool students may apply
- Student must exhibit an interest, passion and/ or experiences in agriculture

REQUIREMENTS UPON SELECTION:

- Students will be required to dress professionally for all Youth Council events.
- All travel to and from the MDAC office in Jackson will be the responsibility of students and/or parents.
- Commit to four council meetings from August 2021- June 2022.



For more information contact
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