



## **FEMA Region V Accepting Applications for Youth Preparedness Council**

FEMA Region V is accepting rolling applications for its Regional Youth Preparedness Council. If you know a student in grades 8 – 11 who is making a difference in his or her community’s preparedness, encourage them to [apply](#)! The FEMA Region V Youth Preparedness Council is a unique opportunity for youth leaders to make a difference in communities in the six-state Region while sharing their opinions, experiences, ideas, solutions, and questions on youth disaster preparedness with the Regional leadership of FEMA.

“If applicants are interested in preparedness, if they have experience volunteering in their community, if they’re looking for leadership experience to put on their college applications then it could be a good option for them, and I highly recommend that they apply so that they can gain some experience in public service, some exposure to FEMA, and become advocates for preparedness in their communities,” said Kim Hayward, FEMA Region V Community Preparedness Officer.

The FEMA Region V Youth Preparedness Council is different from, but related to, the [national FEMA Youth Preparedness Council](#). “What we want to do is leverage the youth preparedness message by adding additional representatives at the regional level, so our current representative on the national council at any given time will be the chair at the regional council. So they’ll coordinate with one another in the regional Council, and then share the information with national council,” said Hayward.

Students chosen to be part of the Regional Council will be very active in their communities and lead a variety of preparedness projects. They will take on a project that’s going to improve their community’s preparedness and resiliency, which could cover a wide range of things. They could develop a youth education program for grade school kids, or volunteer to do a drill or exercise on preparedness at their school; they can do outreach to older Americans in making sure that people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs are accounted for.”

When it comes to specifics about what it takes to become a Council member, Hayward says passion and energy are at the top of the list. “We’re looking for kids who are energetic, who are passionate about public service, and who have some experience already in the preparedness realm—either they’ve experienced a disaster, or they’ve done something in their community that is related to preparedness—and we’re just looking for kids who are interested in this topic, too, who are really passionate about it. So even if they don’t have extensive experience in the past and it’s something that they’re interested in developing, we’re looking for those sort of applicants, too.”

Take a look at the information below to learn more about the Region V Youth Preparedness Council.



# Youth Preparedness Council



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## About the Council

The Region V Youth Preparedness Council will consist of one (1) representative from each state within Region V's area of responsibility: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Region V Youth Preparedness Council members fill three (3) roles while on the Council:

- **Project planners:** The cornerstone of Council members' service is the self-selected local projects they are required to complete during their one-year tenure on the Council.
- **Ambassadors for youth preparedness:** Council members spread the word about the importance of youth preparedness in their local communities and on a regional scale.
- **Liaison to FEMA on the youth perspective:** The members of the Council have a fantastic opportunity to meet with FEMA and its partner organizations to share their insights, opinions, and unique perspective on FEMA's (and others') efforts and initiatives.

The FEMA Region V Youth Preparedness Council is different from, but related to, the national FEMA Youth Preparedness Council. The current chairperson of the Region V Youth Preparedness Council will be Region V's current representative(s) on the national Youth Preparedness Council.

For more information about the national Youth Preparedness Council and FEMA's youth preparedness efforts, please visit [ready.gov/youth-preparedness-council](http://ready.gov/youth-preparedness-council) and [ready.gov/youth-preparedness](http://ready.gov/youth-preparedness).

## Eligibility

Applicants must be current students entering grades 8 – 11 in fall 2016.

The application can emphasize youth disaster preparedness activities that the applicant has participated in or can be related to a disaster the applicant has experienced. The application should describe specific emergency situations and/or examples of disaster preparedness activities that would qualify the applicant to serve on the Council. Sample preparedness activities may include but are not limited to:

- After-school activities
- Citizen Corps programs
- National Preparedness Month participation
- America's PrepareAthon! participation
- Disaster preparedness camps Increasing local disaster awareness
- Pet/service animal preparedness
- Rural area preparedness activities
- Under-represented community programs
- Using social media to further disaster preparedness
- Teen CERT training



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- Youth club activities (e.g., Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts)
- Youth preparedness activities through a faith-based group

## Application Process

The application form can be found [here](#). **Applications must include responses to all of the information requested in the application form; two (2) letters of recommendation; and academic records (e.g., report card, transcript) from the current (2015–2016) and previous (2014–2015) school year.** Please note that FEMA will only consider applications submitted directly by the applicant. Nominations for eligible candidates will not be accepted.

At least one (1) letter of recommendation must be from an adult, age 18 or older, who can speak to the applicant's experience with preparedness and/or disaster(s). The second letter of recommendation should be from an adult who is familiar with the applicant's involvement in the community. Examples of adults who might write letters of recommendation include group leaders, teachers, advisors/counselors, school administrators, coaches, employers, community or faith leaders, local first responders, or Citizen Corps Council or CERT Program members. Family members, relatives, guardians, etc. may not write letters of recommendations. Applications that do not include two (2) letters of recommendation will not be reviewed. Specific information about completing and submitting the application form, letters of recommendation, and optional supplemental materials can be found on the application form and application instructions.

Applications will be reviewed by regional FEMA staff. Finalists will be required to participate in a virtual (e.g., Skype) or telephone interview.