

# FAIRFAX COUNTY STUDENT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION 2023-2024 APPLICATION



## ***Who We Are:***

The Fairfax County Student Human Rights Commission is the region's first commission comprised entirely of high school students with the mission of:

- Promoting dialogues on diversity among youth;
- Fostering a greater understanding and appreciation of differences;
- Creating exposure to human and civil rights laws, such as the Fairfax County Human Rights Ordinance and the Fair Housing Act; and
- Encouraging leadership and active participation in government.

The Fairfax County Office of Human Rights & Equity Programs in partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools launched the Student Human Rights Commission ("SHRC") program over 15 years ago, and the program continues to grow year after year. Each school year, the SHRC hosts events, plans activities, and facilitates campaigns in support of its mission.

## ***Commissioner Responsibilities and Expectations:***

The primary functions of the SHRC are to promote diversity and foster a greater understanding of differences among youth in Fairfax County through SHRC meetings, events, and activities.

The success of the SHRC is made possible by the sharing of ideas and the effort put forth by each member. The SHRC is comprised of representatives from each public high school in Fairfax County. The application and selection process is highly competitive. As a Commissioner, you are viewed as a leader, not only to the students at your school, but for every student in our community. For this reason, it is important that you maintain a sense of responsibility and integrity throughout your term on the SHRC.

## ***Before applying to become a Commissioner, consider whether you are able to:***

- Attend and participate in regularly scheduled meetings (usually twice a month);
- Serve as a liaison between the SHRC and your high school to circulate information, encourage participation in activities, and launch SHRC initiated campaigns;
- Actively participate in SHRC events and enrichment activities
- Be passionate, motivated, and creative about human and civil rights issues; Please complete the following application for consideration.

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Deadline for submission: **Wednesday, May 31, 2023**, by  
5:00pm

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

What school will you attend this fall? \_\_\_\_\_

Grade level for the 2023-2024 school year: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Shirt Size (select one): ☐ S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ 2X ☐ 3X ☐ 4X

You are required to keep your camera on during virtual meetings. Does your laptop camera work? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How did you hear about the Student Human Rights Commission?

Provide a list of activities (school-related or otherwise) that you are currently involved in.

Provide a list of your time commitments for the upcoming school year. This includes jobs, sports teams, extra-curriculars, volunteer work, etc. Please include dates and times of each activity.

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## **Essay Questions**

*(250 word limit for each)*

Why do you want to join the Fairfax County Student Human Rights Commission?

What is a current civil rights, international human rights, or diversity issue that is of concern to you? Provide an example of a creative way to address and bring awareness to this issue in your school or community.

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Provide a detailed example of a time you successfully promoted an event. What steps did you take? How many people participated in the event?

Provide an example of a time when you were a leader.

**All applicants are required to obtain a teacher recommendation. Please ensure that your teacher recommendation is attached to your application.**

**Applications are due by Wednesday, May 31 at 5:00pm.**

Applications should be submitted to [shrc@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:shrc@fairfaxcounty.gov). Admissions will be made on a rolling basis. Incomplete or illegible applications will not be considered.

Please direct any questions to [shrc@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:shrc@fairfaxcounty.gov) or contact Bethany Pereira at 703.324.2953, 711 TTY, or visit our website at [fairfaxcounty.gov/humanrights](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/humanrights).