

***Junior High Program
Application for 2025 Class***

HYLA is seeking eighth grade students from each school to be part of a county-wide leadership program. Candidates for HYLA have leadership potential but have not yet had the opportunity to discover it. The Hancock Youth Leadership Academy will help unlikely leaders recognize their potential. Students from the four schools will meet for four full-day sessions to learn about leadership skills, community development and high school readiness. The last session will include a service project planned by students. Approximately 20 students will be selected for the program.

Program Requirements

- Applicants must be in the eighth grade or home-schooled equivalent.
- Applicants must live or go to school in Hancock County.
- Applicants must have a grade point average that is adequate to allow school absence (excused).
- Applicants must submit a completed application including a picture of the applicant.
- Applicants must secure a Recommendation Form from a teacher, counselor or principal.
- Class members must attend the program in its entirety.
- Class members must agree to abide by all Hancock Youth Leadership Academy policies and procedures.

2025 Junior High Session Dates

Dates are tentative

Wednesday, January 15 - Orientation, Leadership

Tuesday, February 11 - Local Government/Prevention Day

Tuesday, March 25 - Art and History

Tuesday, April 29 - Retreat and Graduation (students with us all day)

*Parents invited to graduation at 5:30pm.

Application Process

1. It is the responsibility of the applicant to submit the application online.
2. Applications must be **RECEIVED through the application portal no later than 4:00pm on Friday, October 25, 2024.**
3. Applications **must be** complete to be considered.
4. Letters notifying applicants of the selection committee results will be mailed in December 2024. School counselors will receive notification of the selected students as well.
5. Once the applicant is selected, he or she has three business days to accept or decline.
6. The cost of the program is \$100.00. Applicants may request a scholarship on the acceptance form.
No student will be turned away for inability to pay for the program.

Applicants are chosen based on three areas:

1. **Application**

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The application should be completed in complete sentences with correct spelling and grammar. It is recommended that applicants write a draft of their answers and cut/paste them into the application portal. Scoring is based on spelling, grammar, and quality of answers.

2. Interview

Depending on how many applicants we get from your school, we may come to the school to meet you and talk with about your application.

3. Recommendation

Recommendations should be completed online by the deadline and filled out completely to be considered. The recommendation may be found at www.hancockhrc.org. Click on HYLA, HYLA Junior High School Program, and 2025 HYLA Junior High School Recommendation Form, click the QR code below, or the teacher may email rrhodes@hancockhrc.org for the link.



4. Essay Questions

A list of essay questions and the word count for each question is listed below. It is highly recommended that applicants write a draft of their answers and cut/paste them into the application portal. Scoring is based on spelling, grammar, and quality of answers.

- Tell us about school Do you have any accomplishments, awards, or honors to tell us about? What activities are you involved in? Tell us about any leadership roles you have held. It is okay to type "NONE". (Word Count 150)
- Please describe community service or volunteer work you have done and what you did do? It is OK to type "NONE".
- Why are you applying to the Hancock Youth Leadership Academy?
- Who is someone you admire and why?
- What do you want to be or do when you grow up?
- What is something in your community (church, school, town) that you would like to see changed and how would you change it?
- What do you hope to gain from your experience in HYLA? What do you want to learn and do?
- Tell us something you have worked hard for or you are proud of.