



## National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Youth Seat Application Form

### Before applying for sanctuary advisory council membership, please review:

1. Sanctuary advisory council charter provided in your application kit; and
2. Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) *National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Implementation Handbook* available online at <http://www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/management/ac/acref.html> (or you may obtain a copy from your local sanctuary).

Sanctuary advisory councils advise and make recommendations to the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries on issues regarding the designation and management of national marine sanctuaries. The charter outlines the purposes and governs the operation of the sanctuary advisory council. The handbook provides broader operational requirements for sanctuary advisory councils. In applying for sanctuary advisory council membership, you are agreeing to abide by the terms of the charter and the handbook if you are selected as a youth council member or alternate. Also, please note that youth seats are intended to engage high school students and, therefore, term limits for youth seats may be further limited once a youth reaches his or her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday or graduates high school.

Applicants considered for selection, please note that the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries will conduct a LEXIS/NEXIS check and a departmental bureau check for potential conflict of interest and other issues in your background.

Additional information and guidance regarding the use of the information you submit on this form and its availability under federal law can be found at the end of this form. Please review this information. Also, please note that the terms “youth” and “student” are interchangeable in this application form.

### Students filling the youth seat must:

- Be between the ages of 14 and 17 when they apply, unless otherwise stated in the advisory council charter for which you are applying;
- Attend a school in an area associated with the sanctuary (including home schools or other alternative high school options).
- Have a proven ability to communicate and network with other students within their school, in other schools within their community, or with home-schooled students and with adults;
- Possess an interest in sanctuary resource protection and management;
- Have experience or knowledge regarding public uses and activities in the sanctuary; and
- Be able to travel to and attend council meetings and retreats (parent/guardian or student provides transportation).



**Once selected, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary staff will contact students who will be required to provide:**

- Parent/guardian permission,\* and
- School permission.\*

*\* Note: This will grant blanket permission for all council meetings and retreats.*

**Procedure for Application:**

**Step 1:** Please provide your contact information and respond to the questions below.

**Step 2:** Have a parent/guardian sign to acknowledge he/she is aware of and in support of your application.

**Step 3:** Have a teacher, mentor, or knowledgeable adult provide a letter of recommendation. Note, this is encouraged but not required.

**Step 4:** The application deadline is January 20th, 2026 Please return all pages of your completed sanctuary advisory council youth seat application form, and any attached statements or documents, to Laura Howes, Stellwagen Bank NMS, 175 Edward Foster Road, Scituate, MA 02066 or email: [laura.howes@noaa.gov](mailto:laura.howes@noaa.gov)

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**First Name\*:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Middle:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please include full first, middle, and last names.

**Position(s)/Seat(s) applying for:**

Youth Seat Primary (non-voting) \_\_\_\_

Youth Seat Alternate (non-voting) \_\_\_\_

**Home Address**

**Address 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Parent/Guardian Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement:**

I acknowledge that I am aware of and support my child or ward applying for and potentially serving on the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council.

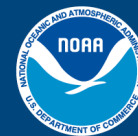
**Parent/Guardian Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please answer all of the questions below thoroughly and in numerical order. Answers should be no more than two to three paragraphs and should appear on a separate attached document with each answer clearly marked with the corresponding question number.

1. How did you learn about the opportunity to apply for this sanctuary advisory council seat?
2. How familiar are you with the community or area associated with the sanctuary?
3. Are you willing to participate in sanctuary advisory council activities (e.g., meetings, constituent outreach, retreats and reviewing written materials)? Please address whether it is possible for you to miss a portion of or all of your classes and club or team activities to attend a sanctuary advisory council meeting or retreat?
4. Why are you interested in serving on the sanctuary advisory council? Please include what you hope to gain from participating on the sanctuary advisory council.
5. Describe what you think is the role of the council, and how you will work to best support the sanctuary as a sanctuary advisory council member or alternate.
6. Explain how you will share information with your peers in the community, take action on council-related issues, etc.
7. Explain your views regarding the protection and management of marine or Great Lake resources, including natural (fish, coral reefs, etc.), historic and/or cultural resources.
8. Describe what knowledge and experience you can bring to the advisory council, which may include, but is not limited to, other groups you belong to or affiliations you have (e.g., student council, science club, soccer team, hiking club, scouts, employment). Be sure to include qualifications that you have or relevant information that you think would be beneficial to the council.



Individuals 18 years of age and older are not eligible to apply for the sanctuary advisory council's youth seat, but may apply for other council seats as they become open and are advertised.

Information obtained through this application process will be used to determine the qualifications of the applicant for membership on the sanctuary advisory council. The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries affirms it intends to disclose the applications only to Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration staff, including employees, grantees, and contractors, with a need to know the information in the applications to complete the application review process, and to current sanctuary advisory council members who serve on the applicant review panel. However, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries may be required to disclose the applications in response to a court order, a congressional request, or a request from the public under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

If disclosure is requested under FOIA, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries will endeavor to protect the privacy of applicants by withholding personal information, such as home addresses and telephone numbers of applicants, as well as names or other identifying information of applicants who are not chosen as members of the council. In contrast, other information may be released, including names of applicants who are chosen as members of the council, other information in chosen members' applications that relate to their qualifications to be a member or alternate, including education and professional experience, and statements of philosophy or opinions contained in the application. Applying for membership on the sanctuary advisory council is voluntary.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average one hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, 1305 East West Highway, N/NMS, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

### **Privacy Act Statement**

*Authority.* The collection of information concerning the solicitation for applications for sanctuary advisory councils is authorized under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, 16 U.S.C. 1445a, and Executive Order 13178, and in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, (Privacy Act) 5 U.S.C. 552a.

*Purposes.* The collection of names, contact information, professional information, qualifications, and answers to the application questions is required in order for the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries to evaluate and appoint members to the sanctuary advisory councils. The information collected will be reviewed by NOAA employees, and may also be reviewed by current sanctuary advisory council members as part of the evaluation process.



*Routine Uses.* NOAA will use the application information for the purposes set forth above. The Privacy Act authorizes disclosure of the collected information for the following purposes: to NOAA staff for work-related purposes; for other purposes as set forth in the Privacy Act; and for routine uses published in one or more of the following Privacy Act System of Records Notices, as applicable: COMMERCE/DEPT-11, Candidates for Membership, Members, and Former Members of Department of Commerce Advisory Committees, available at <https://www.commerce.gov/node/4946>; COMMERCE/DEPT-18, Employees Personnel Files Not Covered by Notices of Other Agencies, available at <https://www.commerce.gov/node/4953>; and OPM/GOVT-1, General Personnel Records, available at <https://www.opm.gov/information-management/privacy-policy/sorn/opm-sorn-govt-1-general-personnel-records.pdf>, which cover certain records regarding Federal employees and may also cover records of individuals who are not Federal employees who, through their service on a sanctuary advisory council, may be considered as volunteers providing gratuitous services to the agency without compensation; and, for individuals who are also members of a Regional Fishery Management Council, COMMERCE/NOAA-13, Personnel, Payroll, Travel, and Attendance Records of the Regional Fishery Management Councils.

*Effects of Not Providing Information.* Providing the application information is voluntary; however, if the information is not provided, the individual will not be considered for appointment as a member of a sanctuary advisory council.

*Consent.* By submitting an application to the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries for appointment to a sanctuary advisory council, you are consenting to the use and disclosure of the information for the purposes and routine uses described above. However, if you prefer that your application be reviewed by NOAA employees only and not disclosed to current council members as part of the evaluation process, please contact the sanctuary advisory council coordinator [laura.howes@noaa.gov](mailto:laura.howes@noaa.gov), tel: 781-205-0354 to request internal review only, which will not result in any disadvantage or impact regarding your candidacy, or for any questions regarding this Privacy Act Statement.

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