Youth Engagement Program

2026 – 2028 Application

Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce
228 Newman Street
East Tawas, MI 48730
P: 989.362.8643
F: 989.362.7880

www.tawas.com

ABOUT THE TAWAS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

History and Mission

Since 1947, the Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce has been a network organization comprised of businesses, civic non-profit groups, publicly funded entities and individuals who work together toward a common vision: Prosperity in Business. Strength in Community. Governed by a volunteer Board of Directors that is elected by their peers, the organization's charge is to encourage and support economic development and success by creating collaborations to grow membership, support tourism, and foster opportunities that will ensure a vibrant community for those who work, live, and play here.

Goals and projects are accomplished through our Chamber committees which provides members and stakeholders with the opportunity to participate and provide input on key issues. Chamber leadership is intensely involved throughout the wider community, encouraging vision, cooperation and consistency in long-range regional planning and decision- making. Events, projects and programs are designed and implemented to enhance the economic development of the Tawas area.

As a member and advocate of our community, we strive to leave a better place for the next generation; but we believe the best way to ensure success is to get the next generation involved **NOW**. The Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce Youth Engagement Program is designed to facilitate that engagement. This program will provide a high quality, organized and focused volunteer experience to the students who are interested in promoting community and business prosperity through advocacy and network development.

MISSION OF THE YOUTH BOARD MEMBERS

Youth Board Members will:

- Provide a youth perspective of community and civic issues
- Provide a voice for young people who will be affected by the Board's decisions
- Bring a deeper understanding of the youth-related issues you're considering
- Recruit youth volunteers
- Explain the Chamber's policies, programs, mission, etc. to other youth
- Help with public relations as the "youth face" of the organization
- Find out how boards and organizations work, and learn meeting etiquette, facilitation, listening, diplomacy, and other skills necessary to be engaged and active in the community, and to embrace a supported leadership role, when appropriate.

WHAT DO YOUTH BOARD MEMBERS DO?

- Participate in meetings, outreach, public speaking, group decision-making.
- Assist in developing in project ideas
- Assist/participate in project management and implementation

BENEFITS OF BEING A YOUTH BOARD MEMBER:

- Access to leadership in both business and government
- Gain a high quality, organized, and focused leadership development experience
- Learn about municipal governments and community-based organizations with an emphasis in collaboration
- Learn how to lead and follow for community enhancement
- $1,000 scholarship toward continued education, provided by Chamber member, Huron Community Bank
- Opportunity for references from community leaders/business owners

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

Starting in September 2026 and ending in May 2028. Time commitment requirements include the following:

- **Attend monthly Board meetings beginning on September 9, 2026, 8:00a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

  Monthly Board meetings will typically be held the 2nd Wednesday from 8 to 9:30am.

  Except for days affected by holidays.

  Tentative 1st year schedule:

  - September 9, 2026
  - October 14, 2026
  - November 11, 2026
  - December 9, 2026
  - January 13, 2027
  - February 10, 2027
  - March 10, 2027
  - April 14, 2027
  - May 12, 2027

  Students must coordinate their own transportation to and from meetings.

Attendance at the June, July and August Board meetings is encouraged, but not required.

Attendance:
Students will be assigned a Youth Engagement Advisor *(YEA)* upon appointment to the Board. This is the person who will act as the liaison between school and the Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce. Students will be expected to keep their YEA updated on all absences and meeting conflicts, such as sport and academic responsibilities.

- Students may miss up to three *(3)* meetings out of the nine *(9)*, with pre-arranged absences through their YEA. School excused absences and closings will be accepted.
- Missed Board meetings may have the ability to be made-up by attending scheduled committee meetings. These arrangements will need to be arranged through your YEA.

- Committee Meetings, *(as needed for supplementing overall attendance or as desired for enhanced program experience)*
- Attend volunteer sessions, *(as desired based on interest)*

WHO CAN APPLY?

Students who are entering their Junior year fall of 2026; who attend Tawas Area High School, Alternative Education Academy or are home-schooled and are interested in helping their community

RECRUITMENT PROCESS:

- Complete the application packet which includes: Cover Letter, Resume, Application Form, two *(2)* Letters of Recommendation and Commitment Statement by June 30, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.
- You will be notified as soon as possible within submission of your application
- The Board will make the appointments and contact you by email or phone.

DRESS CODE

Youth Board Members should review their school's Student Handbook for appropriate attire/presentation.

Student/Applicant

Name _____

Address _____ City and Zip Code _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

Email address _____

High School _____ Year in school (circle one): Jr. Sr.

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

Name*(s)* _____

Address _____ City and Zip Code _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

Email address _____

COVER LETTER PROMPT: *(Type and submit as a separate document.)*

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF: List school activities, leadership positions, hobbies/skills, volunteer experience.

1. Why do you think public service is important?
2. What are some of the problems in our community that you feel need to be addressed?
3. What can you bring to this group to encourage the mission of Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce at your school and in your community?
4. How will you benefit from the information and experiences gained by being a Youth Board Member of the Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce?
5. Where do you see yourself in five years?
6. Will your personal schedule allow you to be actively involved in the meetings, trainings, and projects anticipated as a Youth Board Member of the Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce?
    - Include a list of your other activities and commitments

For more information on the Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce, please visit www.tawas.com

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

(Two (2) Letters of Recommendation are required for consideration. One (1) must be from a current teacher or coach)

THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION IS IN SUPPORT OF:

Student Name _____

School_____

Your Name _____

Areas	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Intellectual Curiosity				
Initiative				
Creativity				
Leadership				
Dependability				
Interpersonal Relations				
Diligence				

TELL US ABOUT THE STUDENT: *(Please type and submit as a separate document.)*

1. How do you know this student?
2. Why do you believe this student is a good candidate for the position of Youth Board Member with the Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce?
3. Please provide any additional information regarding the student.

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TELL US ABOUT THE STUDENT: *(Please type and submit as a separate document.)*

4. How do you know this student?

5. Why do you believe this student is a good candidate for the position of Youth Board Member with the Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce?

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COMMITMENT STATEMENT, STUDENT

I,_____, understand that the Youth Board Member of the Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce is an important leadership role for youth. If accepted, I am fully prepared to fulfill the commitment that is asked of all members including being a good representative for the youth of the Tawas area, working hard to positively contribute to the Chamber mission and being a positive role model for other youth.

I have also discussed the time commitment with my parents or legal guardian, teachers, sport coaches, employer and other activity programs, and can make a serious time commitment given my responsibilities.

During meetings, I will not be using electronic devices for uses outside of Youth Board Member requirements. I agree to be respectful to all of the speakers and engage in meeting discussions.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT_____Date:_____

COMMITMENT STATEMENT, SCHOOL

I,_____, understand that the Youth Board Member of the Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce is an important leadership role for youth. If accepted, I am fully prepared to support this student and their endeavor to be in this role.

I have also discussed the time commitment and my expectations concerning their responsibilities in my class with_____. We have outlined our strategy that should enable their success in their new role and at school.

SIGNATURE OF INSTRUCTOR_____Date:_____

PARENT PERMISSION

I,_____the parent/legal guardian for_____, understand and agree with the mission and goals of the Youth Engagement Program of the Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce, and support her/him in this commitment, and give permission for full participation in all activities, meetings, field trips and responsibilities pertaining to the duties of a Youth Board member.

PHOTO RELEASE for valuable consideration, receipt of which is acknowledged, I grant to the Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce the right to use my photograph, portrait, likeness, or testimonial in the manner indicated below.

I agree to release and hold harmless all directors, officers, employees, and agents of the Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce from any activity, error, or omission associated with the reproduction of my photograph, portrait, likeness, or testimonial.

I AGREE TO TRANSPORT OR ARRANGE TRANSPORTATION FOR MY CHILD TO AND FROM THE TAWAS AREA CHAMBER of COMMERCE. I WILL DROP OFF MY CHILD BEFORE 8:00 A.M. AND PICK UP PROMPTLY AT 9:30 A.M. ***(Please outline, on the back of this form, your identified transportation plan)***

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN_____Date:_____

Please review and sign the Indemnity Agreement on next page.

Applications must be received by:

June 30th, 2026

By Mail: TACC Youth Engagement
228 Newman Street
East Tawas, MI 48730

By Email: director@tawas.com
Subject: TACC Youth Engagement:
Student's Name

I N D E M N I T Y

A G R E E M E N T

FOR AND IN CONSIDERATION of being allowed to participate (as well as other good and sufficient consideration acknowledged), I –_____– for any on behalf of myself, any spouse or partner, and the following minor children:

(and our collective fiduciaries, assigns, lienholders, subrogees, successors, and representatives); do hereby covenant not to sue and do hold harmless, indemnify, defend, and (to the extent permitted by law) release **TAWAS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**, **CITY OF TAWAS CITY**, **CITY OF EAST TAWAS**, *and* **COUNTY OF IOSCO** (and their respective officers, fiduciaries, representatives, employees, and agents) against and from all claims, demands, actions, or causes of action on account of any and all rights or damages, direct or indirect, known or unknown, and accruing or assertable at any time; arising from or which may hereafter arise from participation in the **Youth Engagement Program** or any aspect thereof.

MOREOVER:

1. I warrant that I have read this agreement and that I fully understand its meaning. I warrant that I am a competent adult fully empowered and legally authorized to execute this agreement on my behalf. I warrant that I am authorized to act on behalf of the persons (including minors) referred to herein.

2. I agree that the privilege of participation alone constitutes valid and sufficient consideration for this agreement.

3. I warrant that no threat, promise, or other inducement has been offered or made except as herein set forth; and that this agreement is executed without reliance upon any statement or representation by the parties to be indemnified and (or) released herein.

4. This agreement is to be construed and enforced under the laws of the State of Michigan, venue for which is agreed to be Iosco County MI. It shall be construed broadly to provide relief to the Chamber, Cities, and County to the maximum extent permissible under the applicable law.

_____ _____

[date] [signature]