**Privacy Act Statement**

**Authority:** The collection of this information is authorized under 5 U.S.C. § 301, Departmental regulations which authorizes the operations of an executive agency, including the creation, custodianship, maintenance and distribution of records, and 15 U.S.C. 1512, Powers and duties of Department.

**Purpose:** NOAA is collecting information for the Young Changemakers Fellowship. Interested individuals will provide applications to the program and successful applicants will be asked for additional contact and other information. Successful applicants will also be contacted with program-related communications in the June 2024 to June 2025 fellowship year, and may be contacted beyond this fellowship year with optional program evaluations, opportunities, and/or communications. NOAA reserves the right to provide a whole and frank evaluation of performance about successful applicants’ program participation to future employers and/or schools, upon request of recommendation or reference.

**Routine Uses:**  The information collected will be used to determine applicant eligibility and qualifications for the Young Changemakers Fellowship opportunity. Disclosure of this information is permitted under the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. Section 552a**)** to be shared among Department staff for work-related purposes. Disclosure of this information is also subject to all of the published routine uses as identified in the Privacy Act System of Records Notice COMMERCE/DEPT-23, Information Collected Electronically in Connection with Department of Commerce Activities, Events, and Programs.

**Disclosure:**  Furnishing this information is voluntary; however, failure to provide some or all of this information may remove the applicant from consideration for this Fellowship opportunity.

**Public Burden Statement**

A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with an information collection subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 unless the information collection has a currently valid OMB Control Number. The approved OMB Control Number for this information collection is 0690-0038. Without this approval, we could not conduct this information collection. Public reporting for this information collection is estimated to be approximately one hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information collection. All responses to this information collection are voluntary. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this information collection, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Lauren Gibson at lauren.gibson@noaa.gov.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Young Changemakers Fellowship Application

Eligibility check

Before we jump into the application itself, let's make sure you are eligible to apply this year.

* Please check the statements that apply to you. *All of these statements must be true for you to be eligible to apply this year.*
  + I am going to be a high school student from Fall 2024 through Spring 2025.
  + I am 13 years old or older.
  + I live in the United States, US territories, or tribal nations.
  + I attend school in the United States, US territories, or tribal nations.
  + I am excited about the environment, ocean, Great Lakes, and/or coasts, and their protection.
* I can commit to the following requirements during the July 2024 - June 2025 fellowship year. *You must meet all of these commitments to be eligible to apply.*
  + Attending the kick-off summit with an accompanying parent / legal guardian in Washington, D.C., on July 23-27, 2024 (NOAA covers all travel expenses)
  + Attending and participating in at least 9 of the 12 mandatory monthly meetings
  + Responding to fellowship-related emails within 5 days
  + Contacting your NOAA mentor at least monthly
  + Planning and carrying out an action project in your community, which includes on-time submission of a written project plan and final documentation of the project
  + Providing feedback to the NOAA team about your experience

If you are not able to check all of the boxes in both of the questions above, you are not eligible to apply to the fellowship this year. *Please review program*[*eligibility*](https://www.noaa.gov/changemakers/eligibility)*and reference our*[*FAQs*](https://www.noaa.gov/changemakers/faq)*for more information.*

If you checked all boxes in the two questions above, please continue to the next section of the form to start the application.

Part 1: Applicant contact information

* Your name (first and last)
* Your email address  
  *We will send you an email to let you know about whether you are accepted to this program, so please be sure to check your email regularly!*

Part 2: Free response

* What sort of ocean or environmental issues do you care about, and why do you care about them? Tell us about a time you demonstrated your passion for these issues, either in big or small ways. *(Limit of 2500 characters, about 350-600 words)*
* In 3-5 sentences, tell us why you want to be a part of the NOAA Young Changemakers Fellowship.
* In 3-5 sentences, tell us about a passion you would bring to this fellowship.
* In 3-5 sentences, tell us about an academic, extracurricular, or other experience that you want us to know about.
* List three words you would use to describe yourself.

Part 3: Additional applicant information

* What grade will you be in during the upcoming school year (Fall 2024 to Spring 2025)?
  + 9th grade (Freshman)
  + 10th grade (Sophomore)
  + 11th grade (Junior)
  + 12th grade (Senior)
* Where do you live? *Please list the city and state, territory, and/or tribal nation.*
* Do you identify with any of the following groups that the federal government, in Executive Order 13985, identified as underserved? Check all that apply.   
  *This question is OPTIONAL.*
  + Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and other persons of color
  + Members of religious minorities
  + Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons
  + Persons with disabilities
  + Persons who live in rural areas
  + Persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality
  + No, I do not identify with any of these groups

Part 4: Letter of recommendation

All applicants must have one letter of recommendation from an adult (not your parent or legal guardian) who can speak to your interest in and commitment to environment-related issues, as well as your dependability. This letter is due by June 10, 2024, at 11:59pm Eastern time—the same deadline as this application.

Please identify a recommender and ask them to submit their recommendation at [this link](https://forms.gle/Z4mgybotTNwi8pD99). **It is up to you to contact your recommender and follow up with them to ensure they submit the letter by the deadline!**

* Please check the following boxes to indicate that you understand the letter of recommendation requirement.
  + I understand that it is my responsibility to identify someone to write a letter of recommendation.
  + I understand that it is my responsibility to share the recommendation letter submission link (https://bit.ly/noaa\_changemakers\_rec) with my recommender.
  + I understand that, if my recommender does not upload their letter by June 10, 2024, at 11:59pm Eastern time, my application will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed.

Part 5: Parent / legal guardian consent

Please ask your parent or legal guardian to fill out this final part of the application.

* Parent / legal guardian name (first and last)
* Parent / legal guardian email  
  *We will copy you on the email letting your child / dependent know about their application status.*
* Parent / legal guardian statement of consent:  
  *I have read the privacy statement* [shown here on page 1] *and consent for my child to submit this application and all of its enclosed information to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the Young Changemakers Fellowship.*
  + Yes
  + No
* Parent signature  
  *Please type your name to confirm your consent to the above statement. This serves as your electronic signature.*