National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
Student Seat Information

Of note, before applying for sanctuary advisory council membership, please review:

1. Sanctuary advisory council charter provided in your application kit;

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); and

3. Importance of Diversity Statement:
   “Whether within a natural ecosystem or a human community, diversity creates strength and resilience. NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries values the remarkable diversity of knowledge, perspectives, and experience found throughout sanctuary communities, and invites a wide range of individuals to seek membership on our sanctuary advisory councils. With a diverse membership, advisory councils can broaden access to understanding and participation in marine conservation and governance, foster innovation and creative problem solving, and can help advance the mission of the National Marine Sanctuary System.”

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 council member or alternate.

Student Seat

A non-voting student seat represents the student segment of the community, being considered a full-time student at an institution of higher education (e.g., college, university). The student member shall be appointed for a term of two years, and may compete for reappointment. A student member’s appointment will terminate once he or she graduates or is no longer attending school full time. At the sanctuary superintendent’s discretion, the student seat may be allowed to remain involved (as an interim measure) in a specific council activity or until the selection of a new student member.

This seat is governed by the same application, nomination, and appointment procedures as non-governmental voting seats on the council, and is also subject to the same grounds for removal.
The individual filling the student seat must:

- Must be considered a full-time student an institution of higher education (e.g., college, university), in the area affected by the sanctuary (NC/VA);
- Have the proven ability to communicate and network with other students within their school and other schools within his/her community;
- Possess an interest in sanctuary resource protection and management;
- Have experience or knowledge regarding public uses and activities in the sanctuary;
- Be able to travel to and attend council meetings and retreats; and
- Provide written recommendation from one or more professors.

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 intends affirmatively to disclose the applications only to Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration staff and other members of 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. In contrast, statements of philosophy or opinions contained in the application would likely be released. Applying for membership on the sanctuary advisory council is voluntary.