



2026/2027 National Youth Ambassador Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility

Q: What are the age limitations for the National Youth Ambassador?

A: Your child must be between the ages of 10 and 13 years of age at the time of applying.

Q: Does my child need to be in remission to apply?

A: It is preferred that your child be in remission, but not required. Due to the potential travel schedule of the position, we ask that parents consult their child's physician to determine if participation in the program is feasible given the child's treatment plan.

Q: If my child had cancer as an infant or when very young, are they eligible to apply?

A: The application is open to any child who is a pediatric cancer survivor. However, the child must be able to articulate their experience with the disease, as an effort to provide hope to other children.

Q: Is prior public speaking experience required?

A: Public speaking experience is preferred, but not required. The National Youth Ambassador is asked to speak at various public and media events throughout the two-year term.

Q: If my child is the ambassador/spokesperson for another nonprofit organization, is he/she eligible to apply?

A: No, your child must only represent Hyundai Hope on Wheels throughout the two-year term. However, prior ambassador/spokesperson experience is welcomed.

Application

Q: When is the application deadline for the 2026/2027 National Youth Ambassador?

A: The application is due online by **Monday, January 5, 2026 at 5 p.m. PST.**

Q: Do I need to submit the application online?

A: Yes, we are only accepting applications online at HyundaiHopeOnWheels.org/NYASearch. If reasonable accommodations are needed, please email info@HopeOnWheels.org.

Q: Is it required that I submit a photo and video of my child?

A: Yes, a current photo and a video are required components of the application. The video may be taken with a cell phone and should be representative of your child's passion for the cause and their individual story of hope.

Q: How can I learn more about the application process?

A: If you have any questions, please send an email to info@HopeOnWheels.org.

Q: How can I learn more about the organization?

A: To learn more about HHOW, please visit www.HyundaiHopeOnWheels.org or visit our social media accounts on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#).

Selection Process

Q: How does Hyundai Hope on Wheels select the National Youth Ambassador?

A: A committee determined by Hyundai Hope on Wheels will evaluate all applications and will select finalists for virtual interviews with the organization's leadership.

Q: Is the online application the only requirement or is there an interview? If so, when will it take place?

A: Yes, an interview is required for all final candidates and their parents. The interview will take place in January virtually via Zoom.

Q: When will my child find out if they have been selected for the position?

A: A final selection will be made at the end of January and the child and parents will be notified at that time.

Q: When will my child's selection be announced to the public?

A: The 2026/2027 National Youth Ambassadors will be announced during a launch event to take place in the spring of 2026.

Term of the HHOW National Youth Ambassador

Q: What will be the principal responsibilities of the National Youth Ambassador?

A: Responsibilities include: participate in media interviews, attend Hyundai Hope on Wheels events, visit children's hospitals, meet with families and/or other community leaders, and assist the board of Hyundai Hope on Wheels to increase awareness of Hyundai Hope on Wheels and the fight against pediatric cancer. The child's photo and video likeness will be included in marketing and promotional materials that will appear in social media, print collateral, digital media, broadcast media, Hyundai dealership collateral, and other production elements for Hyundai Hope on Wheels.

Q: Will my child be asked to do media interviews? If so, will there be media training provided?

A: Yes, your child will be asked to do media interviews and will receive media training ahead of time by representatives from the media team at Hyundai Hope on Wheels.

Q: Will my child be compensated for his/her work if selected?

A: No, there is no financial compensation for youth ambassador or parent/family participation. However, all reasonable travel costs and related expenses are paid by Hyundai Hope on Wheels in conjunction with event participation. Based on travel needs, parents may be provided with a cash advance to help reduce financial impact. Families will be expected to use their own credit card to pay expenses during travel and approved expenses will be reimbursed by check within 10-days of submission of travel related expenses.

Q: Will my child need to miss school for Hyundai Hope on Wheels events if selected?

A: We will work closely with you and your child on the event schedule to try and avoid any absences from school or other activities the child is engaged in. Most events will occur between April and September. Should there be a conflict with a school day, the family has the right to decline to attend. School is a top priority and we will work closely with the families on all travel schedules. There are, however, three major events where attendance is requested: the first is the week of March 30 in New York, NY, the second is in September Washington D.C., and third is in September in Fountain Valley, CA. Each of these events require an estimated 3-6 days in total, including travel, and are subject to change.

Q: How much travel, on average, will be required?

A: The typical travel schedule will involve 7 – 12 trips per year. The Hyundai Hope on Wheels tour season is typically from April – September. The family will be consulted prior to any trip, to ensure acceptable and adequate time for preparation. All air, hotel, on-ground transportation arrangements are made by Hyundai Hope on Wheels.

We have the below events tentatively planned for 2026. Please note: dates are subject to change and there will be additional events for the hospital handprint ceremonies.

February 7/8: Photo shoot in your home town

February 28/March 1: Photo shoot in Orange County, CA

Week of March 30: Week in New York

September (week TBD): Washington DC

September 26: Fountain Valley, CA

Q: How many family members can accompany the National Youth Ambassador during travel?

A: Hyundai Hope on Wheels will cover all travel expenses for the youth ambassador and one (1) parent or guardian. There may be exceptions where additional family members will be considered.

Q: If selected, will travel expenses be covered for my child and family?

A: All travel-related expenses for any designated Hyundai Hope on Wheels event(s) attended by the youth ambassador and one parent/guardian will be reimbursed. Approved travel expenses and guidelines will be provided. A cash advance may be provided to the family in advance of travel. Family will use their own personal credit cards to pay certain travel items and submit an expense report. HHOW will reimburse travel expenses within 10-days of submission.

Q: How much flexibility will there be in scheduling travel and event attendance?

A: Most travel will be a 1-2 night (s) stay and HHOW will book direct air flights in order to minimize the amount of time away from home. School, medical appointments and prior family commitments are high priorities. The family will be provided with event dates and locations several weeks in advance and will reserve the final say on what events the child will or will not attend.

Q: Will parents be compensated for missed work during their child's travel for HHOW?

A: No, parents or guardians will not be compensated for work missed.

Q: What is the involvement of Hyundai dealerships? Will my child be involved with Hyundai car sales in any way?

A: Hyundai Hope on Wheels is an independent nonprofit organization that is funded by Hyundai Motor America and its more than 850 U.S. dealers. With the sale of every new Hyundai vehicle in the U.S., Hyundai dealers make a donation to Hyundai Hope on Wheels. However, your child will not be directly involved with direct car sales in any way.

Q: Will my child be compensated if their image is used in any advertising materials?

A: No, the National Youth Ambassador is a voluntary role. Any promotional materials or advertising conducted by Hyundai Hope on Wheels, which includes your child's likeness, would not be compensated for talent.

###