

Hyundai Hope on Wheels 2027-2028 National Youth Ambassador Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Eligibility

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

A: Your child must be between **10 and 13 years old** at the time of application.

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

A: While it is preferred that applicants be in remission, it is not required. Due to the potential travel commitments associated with the role, we encourage parents to consult with their child's physician to determine whether participation is feasible given the child's treatment plan.

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

A: Yes. The application is open to any pediatric cancer survivor. However, applicants should be able to articulate their cancer journey and share their experience in a way that inspires hope and encouragement for other children and families.

Q: Is prior public speaking experience required?

A: Public speaking experience is preferred but not required. The National Youth Ambassador may be asked to participate in public appearances, media interviews, and speaking engagements throughout the two-year term.

Q: If my child serves as an ambassador or spokesperson for another nonprofit organization, are they eligible to apply?

A: No. The selected National Youth Ambassador must exclusively represent Hyundai Hope on Wheels during the two-year term. However, previous ambassador or spokesperson experience is welcome and encouraged.

Application

Q: When is the application deadline for the 2027-2028 National Youth Ambassador Program?

A: Applications must be submitted online by **Friday, January 8, 2027, at 5:00 p.m. PST.**

Q: Do I need to submit the application online?

A: Yes. Applications will only be accepted online at HyundaiHopeOnWheels.org/NYASearch. If reasonable accommodations are needed, please contact info@hopeonwheels.org.

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

A: Yes. A recent photo and a video submission are required components of the application. Videos may be recorded using a cell phone and should highlight your child's passion for the cause and personal story of hope.

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

A: If you have any questions about the application process, please email info@hopeonwheels.org.

Q: How can I learn more about Hyundai Hope on Wheels?

A: To learn more, 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 selection committee designated by Hyundai Hope on Wheels will review all applications and identify finalists for virtual interviews with organizational leadership.

Q: Is the online application the only requirement, or is there an interview?

A: An interview is required for all finalist candidates and their parents or guardians. Interviews will take place virtually via Zoom in **January 2027**.

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

A: A final selection will be made by the end of **January 2027**, and families will be notified at that time.

Q: When will my child's selection be announced publicly?

A: The 2027-2028 National Youth Ambassador will be publicly announced during a launch event in **late March 2027**.

Q: What qualities make a successful National Youth Ambassador?

A: Successful ambassadors are enthusiastic, compassionate, resilient, and passionate about raising awareness for pediatric cancer research. They are comfortable meeting new people, sharing their personal story, and serving as positive representatives of Hyundai Hope on Wheels.

Because the role may involve travel, media interviews, hospital visits, and multi-day events, successful ambassadors should also be able to:

- Remain engaged and focused during busy schedules.
- Follow directions from event staff and organizers.
- Adapt to different environments and audiences.

- Demonstrate respectful and professional behavior.
- Maintain a polished appearance that reflects the mission and values of Hyundai Hope on Wheels.

Most importantly, successful ambassadors have a genuine desire to inspire hope, encourage others, and support the fight against pediatric cancer.

Term of the HHOW National Youth Ambassador

Q: What are the primary responsibilities of the National Youth Ambassador?

A: Responsibilities may include:

- Participating in media interviews.
- Attending Hyundai Hope on Wheels events.
- Visiting children's hospitals.
- Meeting with families and community leaders.
- Supporting Hyundai Hope on Wheels' awareness and advocacy efforts.

The ambassador's image, likeness, and story may also be featured in promotional and marketing materials, including social media, print collateral, digital advertising, broadcast media, dealership materials, and other organizational communications.

Q: Will my child be asked to participate in media interviews? Will training be provided?

A: Yes. The National Youth Ambassador may participate in media interviews and will receive professional media training from Hyundai Hope on Wheels communications representatives before major media appearances.

Q: Will my child be compensated if selected?

A: No. The National Youth Ambassador position is voluntary and does not include financial compensation for the child or family.

However, reasonable travel expenses associated with approved Hyundai Hope on Wheels events will be covered. Depending on the event, families may receive a cash advance to help offset travel costs. Families may be required to use their personal credit cards for certain expenses and submit receipts for reimbursement. Approved expenses are typically reimbursed within **15-30 days** of expense report submission.

Q: How much travel is typically required?

A: The ambassador can expect approximately **8 to 12 trips per year**, with most travel occurring between April and September.

For 2027, the following events are tentatively planned (subject to change):

- **Tentatively February 6 and 7:** Hometown photo shoot
- **Tentatively March 6 and 7:** Orange County, CA photo shoot
- **Week of March 22:** New York, NY
- **September (week TBD):** Washington, D.C.
- **September 25:** Fountain Valley, CA

Additional travel may be required for hospital handprint ceremonies and other special events.

Q: How many family members may accompany the National Youth Ambassador?

A: Hyundai Hope on Wheels will cover travel expenses for the ambassador and **one (1) parent or legal guardian**. Exceptions for additional family members may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Q: If selected, will travel expenses be covered?

A: Yes. Hyundai Hope on Wheels will reimburse approved travel-related expenses for the ambassador and one accompanying parent or guardian.

Families may receive a travel advance before certain trips. Approved travel guidelines will be provided in advance. Expense reimbursements are typically processed within **15-30 days** of submission.

Q: How much flexibility is there regarding travel and event attendance?

A: Most trips involve a one-to-two-night stay. Whenever possible, Hyundai Hope on Wheels will book direct flights to minimize time away from home.

School schedules, medical appointments, and existing family commitments will be carefully considered. Families will receive event details well in advance and retain the final decision regarding participation.

Q: Will parents or guardians be compensated for missed work?

A: No. Parents or guardians will not be compensated for lost wages or missed work associated with program participation.

Q: What is the involvement of Hyundai dealerships? Will my child be involved in vehicle sales?

A: Hyundai Hope on Wheels is an independent nonprofit organization funded by Hyundai Motor America and its network of more than 850 U.S. Hyundai dealers. While Hyundai dealers support the organization through charitable contributions, the National Youth Ambassador will not participate in vehicle sales activities.

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

A: No. The National Youth Ambassador role is voluntary, and no compensation will be provided for the use of the ambassador's image, name, likeness, or story in approved Hyundai Hope on Wheels marketing or promotional materials.

Q: Will my child be expected to have social media accounts?

A: No. Personal social media accounts are not required.

Q: What happens after the two-year ambassador term ends?

A: Former ambassadors remain valued members of the Hyundai Hope on Wheels family and may be invited to participate in future awareness campaigns, advocacy initiatives, alumni activities, and special events.

Child and Family Support

Q: What support will be provided to help my child prepare for public appearances?

A: In addition to media training, Hyundai Hope on Wheels will provide guidance and preparation before major events, interviews, and speaking engagements.

Q: What happens if my child's health changes during the two-year term?

A: The health and well-being of the ambassador is the highest priority. Hyundai Hope on Wheels will work closely with the family and adjust participation expectations as necessary.

Q: If selected, who will be our primary point of contact?

A: Families will be assigned a designated Hyundai Hope on Wheels staff member who will coordinate travel, scheduling, event participation, and ongoing program support.