



CITY OF TORRANCE 2026 Students and Government Day Program Overview

Purpose

- The intent of this event is to invest in our youth by developing an effective civics education. Students who recognize and understand how local government works will become more informed and involved citizens and voters. By participating in a Students and Government Day, students will learn the roles of the Torrance City Council and City staff by participating in a student-led city council meeting, learning the mechanics of self-governance and participation at the local level.
- Students and Government Day will help students to:
 - Develop an understanding of local city government
 - Promote participation in community affairs
 - Demonstrate that local government can and does affect our lives
 - Emphasize that we can effect change at the local level

Event Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2026

General Information:

- All 8th grade students can participate by submitting an essay.
- To participate students must submit an essay online.
Use the Microsoft form link: <https://forms.office.com/g/PmK4DNcyUP>
- The Online Essay Form will include spaces for the Student's Name, School, Parent Email, Home Phone Number, and Address, as well as parent contact information.
NO HARD COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.
- Essays will be judged on content.
- Up to 23 students comprised of 8th Graders from TUSD and private schools in Torrance will be selected to participate.
- Students may be selected to shadow the following positions:
Mayor, City Councilmembers (6), City Treasurer, City Clerk, City Manager, Assistant City Manager, City Attorney, Communication & Information Technology Director, Community Development Director, Community Services Director, Finance Director, Fire Chief, General Services Director, Human Resources Director, Police Chief, Public Works Director, Transit Director.

Tentative Schedule for Student and Government Day

12:45 - 1:00 p.m.	Students arrive at the Torrance Police Department
1:00 – 1:45 p.m.	Tour of Police Department
1:45 – 2:00 p.m.	Walk to HR Meeting Room and group photo
2:00 – 2:10 p.m.	Introductions & Orientation (<i>HR Meeting Room</i>)
2:10 – 3:00 p.m.	Job Shadow City Council and Department Heads
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Rehearse student-led city council meeting (<i>Council Chamber</i>)
4:30 – 4:45 p.m.	Families and guests to be seated in the Council Chamber
4:45 – 5:30 p.m.	*Student-led city council meeting (<i>Council Chamber</i>)
5:30 p.m.	Students go home with parents



City of Torrance
STUDENTS AND GOVERNMENT DAY
INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING ESSAY FORM

Program available to 8th grade students.
Activities will take place on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 from
12:45 p.m.-5:30 p.m. at Torrance Civic Center/City Hall

Online essay submission link can be found at www.TorranceCA.Gov/StudentsAndGov

Essay Topic: The City of Torrance encourages us all to be involved in our community. What long-term volunteer program would you develop for 8th graders to participate in to make our city a better place to live, work, and play?

- Essays must be submitted by Monday, February 2, 2026.
- Winning students may participate on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 for **Students and Government Day** activities from 12:45 p.m.-5:30 p.m. at Torrance Civic Center/City Hall.
- **Essay must be between 100 - 150 words.** All essay content must stay within the box on the fillable form (Page 2).
- Please use the [Students and Government Day Essay Link](#) to upload your essay.
- Essays will only be accepted via online submission at the link provided.
- **HARD COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Email StudentsAndGov@TorranceCA.Gov if you have any questions.