Power to the youth: How a Minnetonka student is representing young Minnesotans

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Minnetonka High School student Samhita Krishnamurthy has been appointed one of four representatives from Congressional District 6 in the 2025-26 Minnesota Youth Council.

She will be among the 36 youth representatives from middle schools and high schools across the state. The goal of the program is to amplify the voice and power of young people, according to mnyouth.net. The Minnesota Youth Council was established by state statute in 2013 and is the official statewide voice for young generations.



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Congressional District 6 youth representative Samhita Krishnamurthy.

In this official role, Krishnamurthy and her fellow representatives will advise Gov. Tim Walz and state legislators on matters pertaining to Minnesota's youth. The Youth Council will be responsible for selecting introduced bills to be considered for public hearing, proposing youth legislation, preparing a youth omnibus bill and give legislators with opinions on bills from a young person's perspective.

Its core values include ensuring all young people have a voice in their communities, building authentic interpersonal relationships, involving youth in community service opportunities focused on results and providing youth with access to important resources.

Krishnamurthy's involvement in her school's speech and debate team for the last four years is what originally sparked her interest in public speaking and advocacy, particularly when it relates to uplifting youth voices.

Through her extracurricular activities, the sophomore became increasingly knowledgeable on topics such as lobbying on congressional bills and speaking up about pressing societal issues, inspiring her to become more hands-on with the state's policymaking procedures.

After doing her own research on ways to become more involved in her community, she discovered the Minnesota Youth Council opportunity.

"There are so many bills out there that affect the youth, but youth don't know how to shape that. So I really wanted to be part of that process," Krishnamurthy said. "I'm not just educating the youth, but also acting as a liaison between the government and the youth community."

The application and interview processes are quite competitive, given the limited number of seats available on the Council. Interested students first fill out an application and if they are chosen for the next step, they complete their first round of interviews. Finalists then complete a second round of interviews prior to finding out if they will be offered a position on the Council.

Krishnamurthy was appointed to her position last spring. She described the moment she found out she was chosen to represent the youth as a "dream come true".

This past summer, the Council was invited to attend a retreat together to establish which topics would be of high priority this upcoming year. The 36 youth representatives met with Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan and members from the Minnesota Alliance With Youth to gain a better understanding of what areas they should focus their attention towards.

A few significant topics include increasing the involvement of student voices at school board meetings, providing youth with access to substance prevention resources and creating healthier and more inclusive school environments for students.

To ensure the inclusion and consideration of youth voices in governmental environments, each youth representative will be required to reach out to at least 20 youth per month to survey them and gain accurate insight into the needs of Minnesota youth. "We really do value that direct engagement, so we're able to better represent the youth voices in our communities," Krishnamurthy said.

She's looking forward to the new opportunities and skills that she will gain through her experience with the Minnesota Youth Council and explained that she has already learned so much from her fellow youth representatives.

Visit mnyouth.net for more information.

