GENTS & JEWELS OF CHARACTER

2026–2027 STREAMLINED YOUTH AND PARENT APPLICATION

Program Season
October 2026 through June 2027

Culminating Event
The Inaugural Rooted & Rising Ball
Saturday, June 19, 2027
Juneteenth | Date and venue subject to confirmation

Men & Women of Character Organization

Empowering individuals. Strengthening families. Transforming generations.

Gents & Jewels of Character Application

Gents & Jewels of Character is MWCO's October-through-June youth character-development, leadership, cultural education, mentorship, service, life-skills, and formal-presentation program for youth ages 15 through 18. The Inaugural Rooted & Rising Ball is the culminating event, not the name of the program. The target ball date is Saturday, June 19, 2027, on Juneteenth, subject to final confirmation.

Eligibility and Expectations

- Age 15 through 18 and enrolled in grades 10 through 12 or an approved alternative pathway.
- Available for second-Saturday sessions, mentoring, service, family activities, line-dance learning, rehearsals, and the June celebration.
- Expected to attend at least 80 percent of required sessions and complete at least 30 service hours.
- Willing to participate respectfully, communicate about barriers, and complete assignments and preparation.

Required Application Materials

☐ Completed eight-page youth and parent application.

☐ Most recent report card or unofficial transcript.

☐ Two confidential teacher recommendations using the separate two-page form.

☐ At least one confidential community-service recommendation from an adult who directly supervised or observed the applicant's service.

☐ Youth interview with parent or guardian participation when scheduled.

Selection Approach

Selection is holistic. MWCO considers commitment, character, growth, service, future goals, need for opportunity, and the supports that may help the youth succeed. GPA is not the sole requirement. Financial means, disability, transportation, appearance, popularity, or fundraising ability are not measures of character or potential.

Submission Information

Information	Response
Application deadline	
Information session	
Application submission email or link	
Teacher and community-service form submission email or link	
Program contact phone and email	
Application or participation fee if approved	

YOUTH APPLICATION PART ONE

Youth Information and Background

Information	Response
Legal name	
Preferred name	
Date of birth and age	
Home address	
City, state, and ZIP code	
Youth phone	
Youth email	
School or educational program	
Current grade and graduation year	
Parent or guardian name and relationship	
Parent or guardian phone and email	
Emergency contact name, relationship, and phone	

Program track: ☐ Gent ☐ Jewel ☐ Prefer to discuss with MWCO

Background Information

These questions help MWCO support the youth and family. Please share what you are comfortable sharing. Responses are kept confidential, reviewed respectfully, and never used to discriminate against or unfairly exclude an applicant.

How do you describe your cultural background, family traditions, faith traditions, community, or values?

_____
_____
_____

Who are the elders, caregivers, mentors, or important adults in your life?

_____
_____
_____

Languages spoken at home and preferred language for family communication

_____

What should MWCO know about your household, responsibilities, experiences, or support needs?

_____
_____
_____
_____

YOUTH APPLICATION PART TWO

Education, Leadership, Activities, and Service

Information	Response
Current GPA or marking-period average if known	
Favorite and most challenging subjects	
Current educational goal	
Expected pathway after high school	

Specific fields, jobs, businesses, careers, or opportunities you want to explore

_____

School Leadership, Activities, Clubs, Sports, Arts, and Organizations

Activity or Organization	Role	Dates	Hours per Month

Community Service and Civic Involvement

Organization or Activity	Service Performed	Dates	Hours

YOUTH APPLICATION PART THREE

Responsibilities, Interests, Availability, and Support

Employment, Family, and Other Responsibilities

Job, Responsibility, or Commitment	Your Role	Dates	Hours per Week

Skills, Talents, and Interests

List awards, talents, creative interests, technical skills, certifications, or special abilities

_____

_____

_____

Topics You Want Included

Check your highest interests: ☐ Culture and history ☐ Leadership and service ☐ Communication and public speaking ☐ Etiquette and professional presence

☐ Financial literacy ☐ College trades and careers ☐ Entrepreneurship ☐ Wellness and relationships ☐ Technology and AI ☐ Law and civic life ☐ Arts and media ☐ Adult life skills

List the five topics you most want included

_____

_____

Availability and Support

School, work, sports, caregiving, or activity conflicts

_____

_____

Support to discuss: ☐ Transportation ☐ Cost ☐ Attire ☐ Accessibility ☐ Dietary or medical ☐ Technology ☐ Academic ☐ Anxiety or public speaking

What support would make your participation successful?

_____

_____

_____

Youth Responses and Personal Statement

What does character mean to you? Give one real example of how you have shown it.

Describe a challenge, mistake, or disappointment and what you learned from it.

Personal Statement

Write approximately 250 to 300 words in your own voice. You may attach a typed response. Explain why you want to join Gents & Jewels of Character, what you hope to learn, what you will contribute, and how you plan to use the experience in your school, family, future, or community.

Personal statement

Family Perspective and Background

Information	Response
Youth applicant name	
Parent or guardian name	
Relationship to youth	
Primary phone and email	
Secondary parent or guardian contact	
Best contact method and time	

Why would this young person benefit from Gents & Jewels of Character?

_____

_____

_____

_____

What strengths, gifts, leadership, or growth have you observed?

_____

_____

_____

What area of growth or support would be most helpful right now?

_____

_____

_____

What family history, culture, traditions, values, or elders should be reflected in this participant's experience?

_____

_____

_____

What transportation, financial, health, disability, family, work, or caregiving considerations could affect participation?

_____

_____

_____

Commitment Permission and Final Checklist

Youth and parent or guardian should review each statement together.

☐ We understand the program runs from October 2026 through June 2027 and includes workshops, mentoring, service, assignments, family and elder activities, line-dance learning, formal-presentation preparation, and rehearsals.

☐ We will support attendance, timely communication, respectful conduct, completion of required work, and honest discussion of barriers or support needs.

☐ A parent or guardian will attend orientation, designated family sessions, line-dance practices, the final preparation meeting, and the Rooted & Rising Ball.

☐ We understand that youth eligibility for the ball must be earned through attendance, service, conduct, growth, assignments, and preparation.

☐ We understand that inability to pay should be discussed early and does not automatically prevent selection.

☐ We understand that selection is holistic and submission does not guarantee acceptance.

School Record Permission

I authorize the applicant's school to provide MWCO with the most recent report card or transcript, grade level, enrollment status, and attendance summary through an approved secure process. This authorization expires July 31, 2027, unless revoked earlier in writing, except for information already relied upon.

School name and school contact

_____

Application Certification

We certify that the information in this application is truthful and complete to the best of our knowledge. We authorize MWCO to contact the listed teachers and school professionals within the limits of signed permissions.

Parent or guardian: _____ Date: _____ Youth: _____ Date: _____

Final Checklist

☐ Eight-page application complete ☐ Report card or unofficial transcript attached ☐ Teacher One form requested ☐ Teacher Two form requested ☐ Community-service form requested ☐ Interview availability confirmed

Information	Response
Application submitted by	
Submission date and method	
MWCO confirmation received on	