



Frequently Asked Questions

What benefits will membership provide?

- Numerous opportunities to meet, socialize, network, seek advice and share experiences with other ambitious and like-minded professionals.
- Access to a wide variety of training programs specifically designed to heighten knowledge and contribute to the success of young professionals.
- Business promotion opportunities. A way to attract and retain young professionals for a stronger economy.
- An opportunity to save recruiting costs – the networks of your best and brightest employees are your most valuable referral source
- An opportunity to educate your employees in areas such as leadership, community and economic development, and building their network of contacts
- Position your business competitively – showcase your business as a young, talent-friendly company

A member in good standing is one who is current with regard to the following obligations of membership:

- Applications for membership shall be in writing, on forms provided for that purpose, and signed by the applicant and their employer. Any applicant shall become a member upon payment of the regularly scheduled dues. Members are required to pay annual dues, as set by the Board. HAYP dues will be used by the Hays Area Chamber of Commerce for operating expenses associated with HAYP.
- The ideal age for membership in the HAYP shall be 21 to 40 years of age. There is no maximum limit of the number of young professionals that can belong to HAYP.
- Any member in default of payment of dues may be suspended from all privileges of membership (including all automated Chamber notifications) and shall be considered to be a member not in good standing. If, after notice, the default is not cured within a period of thirty (30) days, the membership of that member may terminate upon majority vote of the Board.
- Each member shall be entitled to one vote in person or vote by proxy, on each subject properly submitted for vote. In order to submit an item for a vote of the membership, it must be in writing and presented to the Chamber staff. The Chamber staff will present it to the Advisory Council which will then make a recommendation to the Board. The Board will approve an item for a majority vote of the HAYP organization.
- Any member may be removed from membership by a majority vote of the Board for conduct deemed prejudicial to HAYP, provided that the member shall have first been served with written notice of the accusations and shall have been given an opportunity to produce witnesses, if any, and to be heard at the regularly scheduled Board meeting at which the vote is taken.

Besides attending events, what opportunities are there to become more involved in the HAYP?

All members of the Hays Area Young Professionals are invited and encouraged to serve on any of the following committees which provide the overall direction of HAYP programs and events.

- **Civic/Volunteer Committee** - This committee is responsible for organizing opportunities and events to engage HAYP members to fulfill their civic duty by helping others in need. This group reaches out to various organizations requiring outside assistance and allows members to be involved through actions such as volunteerism and community awareness.

Meeting information - The first Wednesday of every month, Mokas, 4:30p.m. No RSVP needed.

- **Leadership/Professional Development Committee** - This committee hosts a series of lunch speakers and other professional development opportunities to promote growth in the areas of leadership and networking. This team is committed to providing opportunities for HAYP members to remain informed about local programs and services in an effort to cultivate community connections.

Meeting information - The fourth Wednesday of every month, The Press, Noon. No RSVP needed.

- **Social/Networking Committee** - The role of this committee is to promote professional, relaxed, and enjoyable events for HAYP members to participate in throughout the year. These events allow members to connect in an informal and comfortable setting, while providing a variety of fun activities to participate in within the Hays community.

Meeting information - The first Thursday of every month, CBD American Shaman, Noon. No RSVP needed.

- **HAYP Advisory Council** - Assists with recruitment and retention of HAYP members, assists with special events designed to promote member involvement and helps to retain members through personal contact, information, encouragement and support.

How many members are enrolled in the program?

More than 125 young professionals from throughout the region are involved in HAYP.

How much does it cost to join the Hays Area Young Professionals?

The annual cost for membership is \$100 for members of the Hays Area Chamber of Commerce and \$140 for non-members and \$60 for students. The dues may be billed quarterly and will be prorated accordingly.

What are the requirements to become an HAYP member?

At this time the HAYP organization does not have any specific requirements or stipulations other than paying your annual dues. Each member shall be an individual who shares the goals of HAYP. The level of participation is up to each individual HAYP member, however, members are highly encouraged to attend all HAYP meetings and events as well as serve on one or more of the HAYP committees. When participating in HAYP committees, events and activities we ask that you respect our code of commitment.

Code of Commitment

- To be present (in person or electronically).
- To provide my service, enthusiasm, and skills.
- To participate in meetings, events and activities.
- To respond to communication as needed.
- To meet deadlines for RSVPs on social events and other activities.

How do I join the Hays Area Young Professionals?

Please complete the Hays Area Young Professionals “Membership Application” document on the discoverhays.com website and submit it via email to hayscc@discoverhays.com for processing.