



San Diego County Chapter APPLICATION for
2026 Spirit of America Youth Leadership Program @ Valley Forge
APRIL 16-22, 2026

Includes three days in Washington, D.C.

This program is endorsed by the National Council of Social Studies Teachers

Open to San Diego County High School students (juniors given priority): Deadline to apply: **November 14, 2025**

APPLICANT: _____ **MALE** **FEMALE**

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ **PHONE (cell or home):** _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____ **CITY:** _____ **ZIP** _____

BIRTHDATE: _____ **HIGH SCHOOL:** _____

PARENT(s) or GUARDIAN(s): _____ **Parents' email:** _____

Personal Information needed for airline and tour of Government Offices:

COUNTRY OF BIRTH: _____ **U.S. CITIZEN? YES NO SOCIAL SECURITY # last 4 digits** _____
 (legal U.S. residents may apply) (upon selection provide whole number)

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

1. This completed application. Two endorsement signatures.
2. Most recent **high school transcript**—not a report card.
3. **Resume of Activities**—not to exceed ONE page to include: major school activities and organizations; leadership positions; community service activities; sports; hobbies; travel; work, and other experiences.
4. **Personal Statement**—not to exceed ONE typewritten page. **TOPIC:** "WHY WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEND AND WHAT QUALITIES WOULD YOU BRING TO THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE?"

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The **San Diego Chapter of Founding Forward** provides chaperones and arranges all aspects of the tour including air transportation, fee for the Valley Forge Program (room and board), travel, hotel reservations, tour reservations, and some meals in Washington, D.C. The total cost for this is about **\$1,800 per student**.

Each student and his/her parents or guardians must make the commitment to contribute **\$600.00** to **this cost**, about one-third the total cost.

At an Orientation meeting in December students are provided with ideas for fund raising as well as sample letters to use in contacting businesses, individuals, and/or service organizations for donations. The total of \$600 (**including the \$50 non-refundable deposit from December**) will be due: **April 9, 2026**.

All checks are made out to: **Founding Forward San Diego**.

(FFVF is a 501(c)(3) organization: **ID #23-7375538**; all donations are tax deductible.

ADULT ENDORSEMENTS: Have this signed by two people

I recommend this student as a candidate for the Spirit of America Youth Leadership Conference:

1. TEACHER: _____

Comments: _____

2. COMMUNITY MEMBER: _____

(Boss, coach, youth leader, neighbor, church or scout leader, etc.)

Comments: _____

FINAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Please return COMPLETED APPLICATION in **PDF** format only and **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS** by **November 14, 2025** to:

South Bay area – Joyce Truett – jtruett44@yahoo.com

North County and Julian area – Tom Helmantoler - thelmantoler@gmail.com

Mission Bay – Point Loma area – Kelly Balzer - kbalzer626@gmail.com

Clairemont area & other areas – Sally Syren - ssyren@san.rr.com

There will be a follow up interview at your school, by zoom call or phone.

Check out: foundingforward.org for photos and more information.

The San Diego Chapter makes all reservations for the group including the stay at Valley Forge, airline tickets, buses, hotel in D.C., the METRO, and special field trips and admissions. Students will need extra money for a few meals and any souvenirs they wish to purchase.