



YOUTH ADVOCACY COUNCIL PROGRAM OVERVIEW

City of Sunrise Youth Advocacy Council- Proposed New Program

Purpose

The Youth Advocacy Council will serve as a civic leadership program designed to educate students about municipal government and community leadership. The Youth Advocacy Council creates opportunities for students to become more involved in the City government such as assisting with the planning of social, educational, cultural, and recreational activities for youth; working with the Mayor, City Commission, and key City departments on providing service and leadership opportunities for the youth of the City; and most importantly, keeping the Mayor and City Commission abreast of important issues that affect young adults in Sunrise.

Background

Youth Advocacy Councils have been successfully implemented in municipalities across Florida and the United States. These programs provide students with opportunities to learn about public service, observe local government in action, and contribute ideas related to community improvement.

Council Members

The Youth Advocacy Council meets once a month except during summer break. It is composed of 6-12 members - President, Vice President, Treasurer, Board Secretary, and minimal two (2) Board Members or Maximum of six (6) Board Members. All Council members participate in the monthly meetings, with a prepared Agenda.

Youth Advocacy Council Qualifications:

The qualifications for Youth Advocacy Council members are as follows: • Must be a Sunrise resident • Must be enrolled in 8th-12th grade • Must maintain a minimum 2.5 grade point average • Must maintain good citizenship and demonstrate an interest in the community and a willingness to serve the youth of the City of Sunrise for a period of one (1) year.

Youth Advocacy Council Goals

- Promote civic education
- Develop youth leadership skills
- Increase youth engagement in local government
- Promote City Budget Education
- Promote Public Speaking
- Awareness of City Departments Operations
- Community Service Hours
- Provide mentorship opportunities with city/ county leaders

Youth Advocacy Council Activities

- Monthly meetings
- Observe City Commission meetings
- Participate in facility tours and educational briefings
- Government workshops
- Community service discussions
- Mock Commissioner for a day
- Student leader
- Explore career pathways in public service

What service and leadership opportunities are provided?

Each member will participate in public speaking and identifying issues within the community that can be brought forward. If the Youth Advocacy Council identifies an issue, they will discuss it at their meeting, and the Council liaison will bring the issue to their Department Director to have it addresses or escalated to the City Manager, as needed. The Youth Advocacy Council members will also volunteer at City events, and they will receive service hours for their time associated with the Council. ****Youth Advocacy Council may add an item to the City Commission Agenda with City Managers approval.***

How do they interact with the Mayor and Commissioners or staff?

They participate in an event called “Mayor and Commissioners for a Day” and at our local events. They could also shadow Department Directors. They may also have a meet and greet with the City Commission where they can ask the Mayor and Commissioners any questions they have.

Who will manage the Youth Advocacy Council?

A City department will be designated by the City Manager’s Office to manage the Program and the monthly Council meetings.

Will the Council Members be compensated similar to other Advisory Boards?

No, the Youth Advisory Council is not considered a formal Advisory Board. All members serve on a voluntary basis and will receive service hours in recognition of the time they contribute to the Council.