

## **Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee**

Following is a list of the **requirements** for members of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee (MYAC):

1. To become a member of the committee, a youth must attend a school in the Gilbert or Higley School District and be in grade 9 through 12.
2. They must make a minimum one-year commitment to the program (August to June). However, we encourage them to stay until they graduate from High School.
3. The committee meets every other week for an hour. All members must attend these meetings.
4. Each member must attend at least one council meeting during the school year.
5. The committee also does community service work. You must complete at least 20 hours of community service per school year. If you do not complete your community service by the end of the school year, you will not be invited back the next year.
6. Each member must participate in the fund raising activities of the committee. If you do not participate in the fund raising activity, you will be required to complete an additional 10 hours of community service on your own. The funds are then used to pay for the functions we do each year.
7. Members can participate in Youth Town Hall. We would like all members to be at this function but do understand that school may interfere some times. (A detailed description follows)
8. Members can participate in Student Government Days. We would like all members to be at this function but do understand that school may interfere. (A detailed description follows)
9. The committee also attends a meeting at the capital to see how the state legislators work. This is an all day function and you do not have to attend if you cannot.
10. The committee is also available to assist the Mayor with any type of help that may be needed. You may be asked to attend meetings or be on a focus group for different topics. This is not mandatory.

## **Youth Town Hall**

Youth Town Hall is one of the functions that MYAC is in charge of conducting each year. The members talk to other students and try to come up with at least 5 topics that are relevant to all youth. The topics in the past have been issues about the school and the town. We have covered dress code, curfew, book banning, Skate Park, fighting in schools, water quality, and sex education to name a few. Once we have the topics, we then try to contact adults that have knowledge in the area we are discussing to sit on a panel. There is usually an adult and a youth facilitator on each panel. The youth facilitator is a member of MYAC. Then there are usually three adults with knowledge in the specific topic and ten students who are a mixture of MYAC members and other students.

The students are selected from applications they submit to the school they attend. The MYAC members are to make sure the function is publicized in the schools and that the applications are filled out. We then select the students who will participate and inform them of their selection. The function is held all day at one location, consists of an opening speech by the Mayor, and then everyone breaks into his or her panels for the day. Everyone is provided lunch, and then go back into their panels to finalize their presentations. The youth facilitator is responsible for keeping everyone on track and coming up with solutions to the issues they are discussing. At the end of the day, the youth facilitators give a presentation to all participants summarizing what they had accomplished that day.

The youth facilitator is responsible for typing up the information that is discussed that day. It is then compiled into a booklet. Once the booklet is bound together a member of MYAC presents the information to the Mayor and Town Council. The information is also given to the school board for their information. It is up to the MYAC members to do any follow up on the information they received that day. The Town Council has been known to make changes based on what has come out of the function. For example, the town has decided to build a skate park because of the input it received from the committee. They also changed the curfew law in the town because of a recommendation it received from a Youth Town Hall function.

## **Student Government Days**

This function is usually held in the spring and uses some of the information that is gathered in the Youth Town Hall. The MYAC members meet with the Town Manager and discuss some of the things they would like to see done differently in the town. They come up with a list of approximately four agenda items to discuss at the mock town council meeting. We recruit other students from the High Schools to apply for this function. The MYAC members are responsible for encouraging other students to apply. The students are then paired with a department head in the town to learn how the town functions and to learn about any issue they may have to present on at the mock town council.

Once the issues have been decided upon, the Town Manager determines which department heads will have to address that issue at the mock town council meeting. The first day of the function, the students are introduced to the person they will shadow. They are to learn how that person does their job and what that position means. Some students are paired with the Mayor and Council and they spend the day in the Council Chambers learning how to conduct the meeting the next day. Some department heads set up meetings with other people presenting on the same subject so they can all work together.

For example, one of the topics was raising the speed limit on Gilbert Road. The Judge, Police Chief and Prosecutor were to present their opinions on this issue. Therefore, they all met in one of the conference rooms to discuss information and decided who would present what. This was a very good way for the students to learn more than just what their person does. So that all sides of an issue are presented, I have a group of students known as citizens. This year I had two-citizen activists come in and work with that group. Their job was to prepare on the issues and be ready to challenge the presenters and the council on their decisions. It takes all day for the students to prepare for the mock town council, which is held on the second day.

The second day of Student Government Days, all students must come dressed appropriately depending on what part they are taking on. The meeting is conducted the same as a real Town Council Meeting. Issues are presented and the council must vote on what they want to happen. This day is only a half-day and is usually completed by 12noon. I have always received compliments on how sharp the students are, and how eager they are to learn.

# MAYOR'S YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPLICATION

In order to better identify youth problems/issues, a Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee (MYAC) has been developed and implemented in Gilbert. The purpose of the committee is two fold 1) To find a solution for local youth problems and report these to the Mayor and Town Council, and 2) To provide the youth in the community with an outlet for expressing interests and opinions. The committee meets twice a month on every other Tuesday from 6:00PM to 7:00PM and you must attend these meetings. The committee meets at 75 E. Civic Center Drive in the Police Department Building. If you are interested in being on the committee, please provide all the information and answer the questions that follow. You must also attach one letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, coach, etc. – not a family member.

## PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Zip Code

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

School Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in School: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you lived in Gilbert? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have your parent's permission to join the committee? \_\_\_\_\_

What extracurricular activities do you participate in? \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly explain why you would like to serve on the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee?

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What changes would you like to see in the Gilbert Community?

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What are some ideas you may have on the needs of youth in Gilbert today?

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What would you like to see this committee accomplish over the next year?

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If you have any questions regarding this Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee, please contact Jennifer Hood at 635-7709. You may mail you application to Jennifer Hood, Gilbert Youth and Adult Resources, 75 E. Civic Center Drive, Gilbert, AZ. 85296 or FAX it to 480-635-7795