



Discussion about Creation of a Youth Commission

December 20, 2023

Purpose of Youth Commission

- Engage Town youth in meaningful and purposeful ways.
- Provide a platform that encourages teens to take an active role in the community.
- Provide a structure within local government to respond to the needs of children and youth.
- Serve as a voice for all children and youth by understanding, recognizing, and making recommendations to the Town Council on issues that promote a safe, healthy, and positive environment for child and youth development.
- Provide opportunities for high school aged youth to offer advice, recommendations, and information for the Town Council on the development of policies, programs, and services.



Duties of Youth Commission

- Review issues relating to programs and services for children and youth and advocate for services.
- Create a forum for discussions with children, youth, and their families.
- Identify and make recommendations for programs, policies, and any necessary legislation to promote the health and well-being of children, youth, and their families.
- Work with both the public and private sector to bring forth the concerns of children and youth and evaluate programming that will enhance the development of children and youth.
- Develop a communication network to disseminate information about services to children and youth.



Youth Commission Logistics



- Town-staffed Youth Leadership Commission recognized as one of the Town's Boards, Committees and Commissions, following the structure of other Town commissions with membership requirements, elected officers, and open meetings and records laws
- Two Town Council liaisons to the Youth Commission
- Open to ages 13-17, Queen Creek residents

Youth Commission Member Opportunities

- Earn volunteer hours
- Provide input on Town projects/services/activities as needed
- Participate in regional youth commission meetings, League of Cities, youth day at the legislature and other regional youth activities
- Take part in mock Town Council meeting(s), shadow Mayor/Council members
- Programming/activities based on Youth Commission input



Next Steps

- Establish bylaws and application process for the Commission
- Communication with schools and local non-profits about the opportunity
- Recruitment of members
- Interviews with applicants
- Members selected
- Calendar of activities and work plan established by Commission members

