



Community & Recreation Services
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For Immediate Release

SURPRISE TEEN LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SURPRISE, AZ (May 24, 2012)

The City of Surprise is focusing on the leaders of tomorrow through two teen leadership opportunities through the City. The purpose/mission of these programs is as follows: *To Cultivate young leaders and increase civic engagement in youth through The Teen Advisory Commission (9-11th grade) and the Surprise Youth Leadership Commission (12th grade) is an outstanding opportunity to get the youth of the City of Surprise to participate in the governing process of his/her own community. Surprise City Council believes that the outreach of both the community to the youth and the youth to the community is the start of building our City toward the future.*

The City of Surprise Teen Advisory Commission formerly the Teen Advisory Board is comprised of 15 high school students, 5 freshmen, 5 sophomore, 5 juniors enrolled in public, private, or charter schools or participating in home schooling or other educational venues for the 2012-2013 school year. Currently we have are accepting applications for: 5 freshman, 5 sophomores, and 4 juniors. Requirements are: they must be a Surprise resident throughout their term, they must fill out an on-line application and go through an interview process. A few of their duties for this program are:

- Plan and implement the Surprise Youth Leadership Summit
- Provide advisement to City Council on youth programming, open space, and new facility development
- Promote wellness, school and community pride, character development and civic leadership
- Identify ways to expand the scope and magnitude of involvement from ALL Surprise youth, of ALL ages

Regular meetings for the Teen Advisory Board are generally held on the first Wednesday of every other month from 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. at the Community and Recreation Services office and are facilitated by Community and Recreation Services staff.

The City of Surprise Youth Leadership Commission will be comprised of 9 high school seniors' students enrolled in public, private, or charter schools or participating in home schooling or other educational venues for the 2012-2013 school year. Requirements are: they must be a Surprise resident throughout their term; they must fill out an on-line application, have a letter of recommendation and go through an interview process. This Commission will take direction from the Mayor and City Council. A few of their duties are as stated:

- Commission members will be expected to meet bi-monthly in Council Chambers

- Commission members will also meet at various times in the Mayor/Council office to discuss, develop and implement community initiatives and projects that will enhance the quality of life in Surprise community initiatives,
- Commission members will be placed on a rotating schedule to attend and participate in 2 City Council meetings and/or work sessions
 - Must observe all City Council meeting rules
 - Expected to be seated on the dais and participate in the meeting
 - Commission members will represent COS at regional events including West Valley Youth Summit, and Council events
- Commission members will provide input in planning process (i.e., General Plan, Strategic Plan, Village Plan, Development of parks, programming, and services, etc.,)
- Attend Enrichment Sessions to research and apply to various scholarship opportunities
- Commission members will meet with state representatives and other regional leaders to discuss opportunities that will enhance the quality of life in Surprise and the West Valley.

Applications may be picked up for both Commissions at the Community and Recreation Services office, 15960 N. Bullard Avenue, or downloaded at www.surpriseaz.gov/recreation and will also be accepted at the Community & Recreation Office starting May 29.

For more information please call 623.222.2000.