

Selected Youth Commission Comparisons

Agency/ Basics	Summary of Approach/Goals	Format/ Logistics	Staff Liaison Com- ments
<p>City of Rosemount: Ages: 14-18 23 members Meet monthly, no summer meetings Three unexcused absences allowed Must be city residents</p>	<p>Educational. The group is used to organize educational tours of government facilities. Members will shadow council members and other government officials. The focus is to “show them the ropes.” Learn how to run government meetings. Leadership training.</p> <p>Engagement: Members help with community events, tree planting, youth booth, 5k runs</p>	<p>Meet as a group monthly. Break off into subgroups to work on city and community projects. Coordinated by Assistant City Manager who spends 3 hours per month on the group One council liaison New applicants interviewed as a group. Most accepted. Works in partnership with area schools.</p>	<p>The bigger the group the better, since the kids schedules and availability vary so much Recruiting members not a problem. Some kids have returned to join government commissions as adults Recommended</p>
<p>City of Eden Prairie: Ages: High school 20-25 members No meetings as a group, commission members attend other boards and commissions One-year term limits Minimum attendance requirements rarely enforced.</p>	<p>Advisory: Members offer feedback/ideas at government meetings. Ideas and insights presented to the council.</p> <p>Engagement: Youth are encouraged to participate in the civic process. Commissioners seek their input.</p>	<p>Coordinated by staff liaison in partnership with adult liaisons from each board and commission Members attend city boards and commission meetings divvied up by interest. Mostly non-voting. More than one youth member can be assigned per group. One collective banquet per year. Applicants reviewed and chosen by city manager and commission liaisons No partnership with area school district</p>	<p>Word of mouth used to find new applicants. Not actively marketed.</p> <p>“Other commissioners really appreciate it.”</p> <p>Attendance not an issue</p> <p>“I make sure that all potential members understand the time commitment and what is expected of them.”</p>

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<p>Rochester/Olmsted County:</p> <p>Ages: 14-18</p> <p>50 members</p> <p>Meet monthly, year-round</p> <p>Allowed three unexcused absences</p> <p>2-year term limits, or until graduation, 2-6 hours per month</p>	<p>Advisory: Youth generate ideas, advise council, offer recommendations</p> <p>Engagement: Members select events and activities they want to participate in based on their interests. Attend advisory meetings.</p> <p>Experience: Meetings entirely youth-led. Learning to compromise. Politics.</p> <p>Education: Experts and city staff invited to speak at meetings</p>	<p>Meet once a month,</p> <p>Coordinated by halftime staff member paid by City/County split who spends 20 hours per week on the group.</p> <p>8-10 adults on commission</p> <p>City/County/School District partnership, liaisons from all three</p> <p>All who apply are accepted, includes residents from whole county.</p>	<p>Does not need to advertise for more applicants. Word-of-mouth is good enough.</p> <p>"I would be very surprised if anyone on your council regretted starting a youth commission."</p> <p>"City and county look at the youth commission as a way to reach a much broader group of kids."</p>
<p>City of Northfield:</p> <p>Ages: Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors</p> <p>Two groups:</p> <p>18 members (meet together twice a month)</p> <p>27 members (attend government meetings)</p> <p>No term limits, minimum of 2 hours per month</p> <p>Can't miss more than 20 percent of meetings</p>	<p>Advisory: Youth are asked for input at meetings. Provide unique feedback from their segment of the community.</p> <p>Engagement: Encourages involvement in government. Members will spearhead certain city projects/policies</p> <p>Educational: Monthly speakers present at meetings</p>	<p>City Youth Commission meets twice per month, at-large youth commission meets once per month as a group as well as attend various boards and commission meetings as liaisons.</p> <p>Applicants must either live in the city limits, or be enrolled in the school district.</p> <p>Coordinated by non-profit center, 10 hours per week</p> <p>No meetings during summer.</p> <p>Applications scored blindly.</p>	<p>Attendance is not an issue.</p> <p>Receive twice the number of applicants as spots available</p> <p>Advertise on Instagram, with posters, and through word-of-mouth.</p> <p>"If you want true youth engagement and involvement, they need support and guidance from city staff and elected officials."</p> <p>"Decisions are stronger when you have more people at the table. The youth spark different conversations."</p>