

Proposal for the Cooper City Civics Scholar Program Pilot

Submitted by: Education Advisory Board

Program Overview

The Education Advisory Board is excited to propose the pilot launch of the **Cooper City Civics Scholar program**, a new initiative designed to engage middle and eventually all elementary and high school students across Cooper City in active civic participation and local history appreciation.

The program will initially pilot at **Pioneer Middle School**.

Program Objectives

- Foster civic awareness and engagement among students
 - Encourage active participation in Cooper City's community and government events
 - Promote a deeper understanding of local history and civic processes
 - The onus of participation and completion lies with the student. This program builds on existing City activities, encouraging students to engage with them to learn and deepen their appreciation of the city—without requiring new programming from the City or educators.
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Program Details

Participation Process:

- Middle school students at Pioneer Middle School will have the opportunity to opt into the program by **October 2025**.
- Upon opting in, students will receive a **Cooper City Civics Scholar Program Passport** at the Orientation to reference and track experiences and learning opportunities.

Civics Scholar Passport:

- The passport will contain a list of various civic-related activities available in Cooper City.
- Students are required to complete at least five or more activities by **February 2026**. Activities include:

- Attending a Cooper City Commission meeting as an audience member
- Participating in a City recreation event
- Researching Cooper City's history and culture
- Meeting with an administrator at their school to discuss Cooper City
- Phone call or Zoom meeting with a Cooper City Commissioner
- Volunteer at a non-profit that serves Cooper City residents or community
- Research a local ordinance of Cooper City
- Attend any advisory board meeting
- Visit Cooper City Police or Fire Station
- Develop one idea to improve Cooper City

Honors System and Essay Submission:

- Students will self-track participation using their passports based on an **honor system**.
 - By **February 2026**, students must submit a **500-word essay** reflecting on their civic experiences and learnings.
 - Students who fulfill all requirements will be awarded the **Cooper City Civics Scholar Medallion**.
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Recognition and Celebration

- In **February 2026**, the Education Advisory Board will host a **reception** featuring Pioneer Middle School leadership and members of the Cooper City Commission.
 - All students who successfully complete the program and submit their essays will be verbally recognized at **Founders Day**.
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Key Dates

- **October 8, 2025:** Deadline for students to electronically opt-in to program
- **October 22, 2025:** Enrolled students attend Cooper City Scholar Program Orientation

- **February 11, 2026:** Students must upload their essay for review
- **February 25, 2026:** Students are recognized at the Cooper City Civics Scholar Reception
- **March 2026:** Students are verbally recognized at Founders Day Celebration

Projected Expenses and Budget Outline

Item	Estimated Cost
Production and Printing of Passports	\$500
Purchase of Medallions (per student)	\$750
Certificates of Completion	\$200
February Recognition Breakfast (venue, food, materials)	\$1,000
Total Estimated Budget	\$2,450

Note: Exact numbers will be adjusted based on final student participation.

Conclusion

The Cooper City Civics Scholar program will cultivate a stronger sense of community, civic responsibility, and historical awareness among Cooper City youth. By piloting at Pioneer Middle School and expanding to other schools, we aim to build an engaged and informed generation of future city leaders.

We respectfully request support and resources to implement this exciting pilot program.