



Faribault Youth on Boards

Empowering the voices of youth leaders on Faribault's boards and commissions

We believe that organizations are stronger when youth voices are included. Youth participation on leadership boards is a valuable way to increase diversity of thought and experience through broadening the background and perspectives of board members. This added inclusivity will provide better understanding of the unique issues within a community and will engage new voices in contributing to solutions. Youth on Boards is more than soliciting youth input, it is giving youth in our community a seat at the table.

~ Meaningful opportunities for genuine partnership ~

Youth on Boards helps create successful organizations by

- Bringing diverse perspectives and experiences to enrich conversations
- Providing unique insight into emerging trends and community issues
- Contributing innovative problem-solving
- Providing access to untapped networks for growth and community support
- Gaining lifelong advocates of organization's purpose and programs

Youth on Boards helps create empowered youth by

- Increasing confidence and interpersonal communication skills
- Practicing group problem-solving with a diverse makeup of people
- Influencing programs, policies, and practices
- Identifying personal strengths, interests, and aspirations

Youth on Boards helps create thriving communities by

- Lifting up the voices, experiences, and ideas of youth, resulting in the community retaining its young citizens and attracting young families
- Creating a community culture of participation, and developing young adults who value volunteerism, civic issues, and are effective advocates for issues they believe in

Ready to get started? Here's how we help.

Youth on Boards Staff...

- Facilitates the recruitment, application process, and selection of youth
- Provides orientation, coaching, and ongoing support to both youth participants and host organizations
- Works with youth to uphold their commitment and organization expectations

Contact Leah Hegg for more information.
(612) 405-9220 or leah@healthycommunityinitiative.org

2021 Timeline

- March** – Gather interest from prospective boards
- April** – Identify (secure) boards
- May** – Youth applications due
- June** – Selection process
- July** – Placements announced
- August** – Orientation
- Fall** – Youth begin service



"The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow."

Nelson Mandela

Faribault Youth on Boards

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can participate?

Faribault area students in grades 10-12.

Do Youth on Boards members vote?

Yes! Making them full members of the board/committee and assigning them responsibilities that match their abilities will help to fully engage them in your work. The State of Minnesota has legally provided youth serving on boards the ability to vote in most situations.

Can you describe how youth will be prepared for their role?

Prior to youth joining your team, and in partnership with the selected candidate's parent/guardian, Youth on Boards will screen each student for understanding and capacity.

In addition, all youth selected to serve will be provided an orientation. Youth on Boards will present an overview of the program and spend time talking about the important role youth will have in their community. They will also learn how they can gather input from their peers and bring that back to the boards they are serving on to amplify youth voice.

What does support look like after placement?

Youth on Boards will continue to support each student participant after placement and throughout their service. FYI staff will schedule regular check-in meetings to help them process what they are learning in their meetings, help them find answers to questions, and identify areas where greater youth input on an issue their group is discussing would be beneficial.

What does the board need to do when adding a youth member?

Onboarding a new youth member will look a lot like welcoming a new adult member. They will need to be provided with the history of the board/organization, context surrounding previous and current issues, and other useful information.

In addition, we require that youth members be assigned a mentor. This mentor will check in with their mentee to review agendas for upcoming meetings and check in for understanding after meetings. The mentor will also ensure that youth members know the practicalities of the meeting including time, location, appropriate attire, when they can ask questions, when they can give opinions, and any assignments for work to be done outside the meeting. This valuable connection will help your youth members find their footing quickly.

What if our board/committee/commission calendar works on a different timeline?

Please let us know! We will do our best to accommodate you.