

Youth in Government



City of Ottawa, Kansas ECKAN

Updated 8/21/2008

YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Purpose

The mission of the Youth in Government (YIG) subcommittee of the Youth Action Council (YAC) is to give students that attend &/or reside within the USD 290 school district opportunities to learn about and participate in city government on a personal level. This program was created to provide students with an atmosphere that promotes increased self-esteem, positive personal growth and development, a sense of empowerment, and a respect for the uniqueness of others. All youth who take part in YIG will come away with the knowledge that they are a vital and worthwhile segment of our community who can affect real and direct changes. These goals are only possible with support and encouragement from the City and County Commissions, the USD 290 School Board, Ottawa High School, Ottawa Middle School, the sponsors and staff of the Youth Action Council and ECKAN/Ottawa Volunteer Center, and the community of Ottawa.

Membership and Selection

The membership of YIG consists of ten students grades 8-12. After completing an application and an interview with the officers and sponsors of YAC, members are voted in by the full YAC board, names of the selections are forwarded to the City Commission by no later than September 30 of each year. As part of the application process, all youth interested in serving on YIG are required to attend a minimum of one Commission meeting and one Study session, and should include the dates and signature of the City Clerk for verification. All efforts are made to appoint a representative from each grade. YIG strives to include people of diverse backgrounds and does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, or handicap.

Appointments

Appointments are for one year and are approved by the City Commission. Each youth takes an Oath of Office. Youth are encouraged to limit their service to two years.

“However, those who have served the recommended two years may apply for a Mentorship. Mentors will be responsible to familiarize new members with the program and may participate in all YIG programs, but will not count as one of the ten member limit. Generally, mentors will not be eligible for travel with the Governing Body unless one of the regular travel positions is unable to be filled by a member.”

Attendance and Participation

Members of YIG are required to attend a minimum of fifteen city meetings. These include study sessions, city commission meetings and tours of city facilities, which YIG members are responsible for setting up. They must attend at least two of each of these. They must also maintain a 2.5 grade point average. Members also attend an orientation session and are involved in the orientation of the next group. At the beginning of the year, each member will be assigned to a Commissioner and will be responsible for setting a ½ day meeting with their designated commissioner, where they will learn about City Government and the election process. YIG meetings are the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:30 p.m. Members must attend 75% of these meetings. Each year, the group is responsible for planning, coordinating, carrying out, and reflecting on one major community service project. This requires extra time outside of regular meetings and participation is required. Members must attend 75% of the planning/committee meetings. If they are unable to attend, they should call their advisor, the ECKAN/Ottawa Volunteer Center Director to inform and reschedule. Youth in Government is also responsible for the fundraising for their service project. Members may only miss one fundraiser during the year. The attendance of Seniors is required throughout the year as listed above, excluding conflicts with college schedules at the end of the YIG year.

Attitude and Behavior

YIG members should reflect a positive attitude and serve as a role model to other students. They should always show proper respect to all adults, elected officials, city staff, and each other. They are expected to exhibit orderly conduct at meetings and abide by parliamentary procedures.

APPLICATION
CITY OF OTTAWA
YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Please type or print neatly:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Grade (Fall of 2009) _____ Year 20 ____ to 20 ____

Employment/Activities (sports/clubs) _____

Hours available for meetings/volunteer work:

Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	
Saturday	
Sunday	

Why do you want to be involved in YIG? _____

Ideas and goals you have for our community: _____

How do you feel you could contribute? _____

Statement of support from one adult who has known for at least one year (no family relation).

This youth is a strong candidate for Youth in Government because ...

Signature _____ Printed Name _____ Date _____

Please mail/return the completed application to: Ottawa Volunteer Center
Attn: Lisa Rivers
1320 S. Ash
P.O. Box 40
Ottawa, KS 66067

For questions, call: Lisa Rivers
Ottawa Volunteer Center Director/
Youth in Government Sponsor
785-242-7450, ext. 205
lrivers@eckan.org

Meeting Requirement for Application to YIG

All interested applicants must attend one City meeting. Please record the date you attended, along with the Clerk's signature, below:

Commission meeting: Date _____ Signature _____

Youth in Government

2009-2010

Tentative Schedule

Application Deadline: Thursday, September 24th

Interviews: Monday, September 28th at 7:30pm -- ECKAN (1320 S. Ash)

Induction and Oath of Loyalty: Wednesday, October 7th at 7pm at City Hall

Orientation: Friday, October 16th

Meeting Date Options for Application:

(Select one. YIG candidates gather 5 minutes prior to selected meeting to meet YIG sponsor & enter together.)

Study Session (City Commission): Aug. 31st, Sept. 14th or 21st at 4pm at City Hall
(The City Commission is the legislative and policy making body of the City.)

City Commission: Sept. 2nd at 7:00pm at City Hall
(The City Commission is the legislative and policy making body of the City.)

Ottawa Recreation Commission: Sept. 9th at 6:00pm at City Hall
(The role of the Ottawa Recreation Commission is to improve and maintain the mental and physical health, happiness, and well being of the citizens of the Ottawa community, through a well-planned program of organized leisure activities.)

Planning Commission: Sept. 9th at 7:00pm at City Hall
(The Planning Commission is a positive influence for guiding residential, commercial and industrial development in our community.)