

LARAMIE YOUTH COUNCIL

Program Information 2018-19

What is the Laramie Youth Council?

2018 – 2019 will be the fourth school year program for the Laramie Youth Council (LYC). The LYC was created to increase awareness and involvement of Laramie area youth in local government, community service, and relevant issues facing today's youth. Youth Council members will engage in local government operations through various departmental programs and tours, special presentations, and attending City Council, School Board, and Legislative Session meetings. Job shadowing, team building programs, and topical projects will round out the planned curriculum. Youth Council members will be encouraged to influence and plan the annual curriculum, as well as nominate and appoint officers.

Mission Statement: The Laramie Youth Council seeks to strengthen our community through youth involvement in public policy and community service. LYC members gain a practical understanding of local and state government and services giving them a platform for positive influence in the community.

Eligibility and selection:

Youth selected to serve must attend school and/or reside in Albany County. Applicants must be between the ages of 14-19 at the time the program starts. (So applicants must be at least 14 years old but not yet 20 before the start of the school calendar year.)

The first step to join the LYC is to complete and submit the application to the program coordinator's office (City Hall Annex, 405 Grand Ave) by May 1st, 2018. The Selection Committee will review applications and interview candidates later in the month. Following the interviews, the committee will make its recommendations for membership. Successful applicants will be notified by writing in May. In the event that a selected candidate is unable to fulfill his/her term, an alternate is named as that person's replacement.

Membership terms and Youth Council size:

Up to fifteen (15) seats are available on the LYC. Following review of applications, members are interviewed and selected by the Selection Committee.

Each appointed member makes a commitment to serve for one school year. There will be optional events, conferences, and meetings during the summer months – members can attend as schedule allows. Terms are renewable and members may be re-appointed from year to year. Members are encouraged to re-apply, as the curriculum will vary each year and is driven by members. New and returning members have the opportunity to develop lifelong leadership skills, build networks and gain additional hands-on experience in local government. Ultimately, the goal is to provide members with

knowledge and a skill set that will be a benefit not only academically, but professionally and personally as well.

How often & when does the Laramie Youth Council meet?

The LYC will have a business meeting and attend a program monthly at varying locations. Meetings will be scheduled as to avoid conflicts with afterschool athletics or other clubs / activities. Additionally, ACSD #1 Early Release or No Class days may be utilized as additional meeting dates to accommodate field trips and special programming. There will be as many as 4 excused absences from school for LYC programs throughout the year. Members must commit 2-6 hours a month to the meetings, field trips and related activities. Repeated unexcused absences from meetings, activities, or events may be cause for removal of a member from the Youth Council.

Benefits of Laramie Youth Council Membership:

- Provide input on community programs, services and events offered for your age group
- Learn about local government and how it functions
- Meet one-on-one with elected officials and local government staff
- Establish networks that will benefit your future
- Learn valuable job and life skills
- Make new friends

For More Information:

Contact LYC Coordinator: Sam Farstad 307-721-5361, sfarstad@cityoflaramie.org