

Dane County Youth Commission

Congratulations on your appointment! Your term is two years.

Below are the expectations and suggested activities of a Youth Commissioner to fulfill the youth advocacy charge of the Commission.

Expectations

1. **Attend Youth Commission meetings.** The Commission meets every other month for a total of six meetings (January, March, May, July, September and November). Having Quorum is important to move action items forward. Commissioners are expected attend five of the six meetings a year.
2. **Attend annual Joint Health & Human Needs / Youth Commission Meeting.** Held in July, this is an opportunity for Commissioners to advocate for youth issues and apprise HHN on YC activities. It is an opportunity for the Commissioners to hear important budget and policy updates from County Supervisors and the DCDHS Director.

Suggested Activities

Commissioners are expected to participate in at least 3 of the following activities during a two-year term:

- Attend a By Youth For Youth (BYFY) meeting: BYFY is a collaborative project sponsored by the Youth Commission, United Way of Dane County, UW Extension and the City of Madison. BYFY is a unique volunteer opportunity for high school youth to become leaders in the community by identifying critical issues impacting their peers, establishing funding priorities, reviewing proposals, and recommending which programs they determine are most worthy of funding. BYFY meets Mondays, 6:00-8:00 p.m., October through April, at United Way of Dane County.
- Attend the By Youth For Youth (BYFY) Grant Awards ceremony: BYFY holds a ceremony to recognize grant recipients in April. The evening event is held at United Way of Dane County. It is a wonderful opportunity to see the depth and breadth of local programs serving youth throughout the community and experience the exuberance of BYFY committee members.
- Mentor a youth member on the Youth Commission: Mentoring is rather informal. The frequency and type of contact are determined by the youth and adult commissioners. Mentoring occurs for at least one year.
- Send an email about a county budget or policy issue: Is there a program or initiative that impacts youth in our community that deserves to be a funding priority? Send an email! Is there a policy issue that you want to have a voice on? Send an email! You are not speaking on behalf of the Youth Commission, but certainly can identify yourself as a Youth Commission member in your correspondence.
- Write an op Ed or editorial about an ordinance or community issue and submit it to the Wisconsin State Journal, local newspaper or a neighborhood newsletter. Send it as a citizen and member of the Youth Commission.
- Attend public hearings, community meetings or special community events: Participation in local discussions and events ensures the Commission is connected to local issues. Bring ideas of interest back to the Commission or suggest a guest speaker for a YC meeting. Attending community events gives the Commission visibility and an opportunity to see, hear and understand youth issues at the community level.
- Attend a Youth Governance meeting or other youth related event in the community: Learn directly about youth issues from youth! Giving youth voice is a value of the Commission and there is no better way to understand the issues facing young people than to attend events for and about youth. Get connected to the Youth Governance program by seeing them in action! Maybe volunteer for a youth organization or event!
- Serve on a Youth Commission work group or planning committee for projects such as the Dane County Youth Assessment that occurs every three years or special projects.