

2019

Orange City Youth Council



**Application
and Guide**

I. What is a youth council?

A youth council is an advisory body composed of local youth (usually high-school aged). They provide advice and counsel to the local governing body and its affiliated advisory and regulatory boards, as well as other community organizations. Additionally, youth councils can implement and participate in a variety of youth-identified community initiatives.

II. Why create a youth council?

According to the Census Bureau, 24.6 percent of the U.S. population is under the age of 18. It goes without saying that young people are the future of our communities. Therefore, it is vitally important that they are vested with the knowledge, skills and abilities to be the next generation of local leaders. Youth councils are an excellent means of doing so because they promote regular and active civic engagement among youth.

Youth councils promote civic engagement among youth by:

- Giving them a formal role in local decision making
- Offering real-world experiences with elected and advisory bodies
- Teaching them with an opportunity to develop leadership skills and learn how local government operates
- Increasing voice and communication between youth and adults, and among youth themselves
- Increasing youth volunteerism
- Enhancing civic education

III. Who benefits?

Youth councils enable **young people** to:

- Communicate their concerns regarding local matters that affect them
- Directly participate in local government
- Make decisions and take action to potentially improve their community

Youth councils enable **local councils/commissioners** to:

- Be more representative of the community as a whole
 - Gain insight regarding the community's "young," dynamic and/or progressive perspective
 - Encourage youths to be more actively engaged in the political process
 - Improve services that directly affect young people
 - Be more sustainable
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IV. What should the Youth Council do?

Aside from advising local government officials, youth councils can implement and participate in a variety of activities. Some of these activities may include:

- Conduct a youth forum for all local high school students on topics of concern for youths, offering recommendations to the Orange City Council
- Organize community service projects
- Lead a citywide educational or advocacy campaign addressing a youth identified issue or concern
- Conduct interviews of local government officials and city staff for local or community news outlets

Dear Students and Parents,

Orange City is proud to announce an exciting opportunity for current 10th and 11th grade students—The Orange City Youth Council.

The Youth Council will be composed of seven 10th-11th grade students, who will be charged with representing the interests of youth in the Orange City community.

The Youth Council will:

- Involve youth in local government through participation on local boards and committees.
- Increase youth voice and communication with Orange City's future direction
- Increase volunteerism among youth and adults in civic affairs
- Enhance civic education of youth

Youth Council members will be selected through an application process. An ideal Youth Council will be composed of a diverse group since they will be representing ALL youth in the Orange City area. Our primary criterion for selection will be a demonstration that the youth wants to make a difference here in Orange City and greater West Volusia—and we will give them the opportunity to do just that!

Seven youth will be appointed to an advisory board to the City Council. Of the seven members, four members must reside within the city boundaries of Orange City. The four members who are city residents may attend University High, a local private school, on-line school, or be home-schooled. Three members of the Youth Council may be from Orange City (or nearby cities) but must be enrolled in University High School.

Applications are due by Friday, April 5th by 3:00pm. All applications must be returned to either the City Clerk's office (229 E. Graves Avenue, Orange City), or University High School Activities office (Room 2B-110).

If you have any questions regarding the Youth Council, please feel free to contact Mr. Weaver or Ms. Pearsall at the University High Activities office or contact me at the City Clerk's office by phone or email.

Sincerely,
Gloria Thomas
City Clerk
gthomas@ourorangecity.com
Phone: 386-775-5403
Fax: 386-775-5407

City of Orange City

Youth Council Application

Applicants MUST be currently enrolled in 10th or 11th grade. Applicants MUST also be enrolled at University High School or be a resident of the City of Orange City.

ALL information must be completed to be considered for the Orange City Youth Council.

Name: _____ (last, first)

Age: _____

Grade: _____

School: _____

Home Address: _____

Student Phone: _____

Student E-Mail: _____

Why do you want to serve as a member of the Orange City Youth Council?

What are the three most important issues to you, your friends and your family concerning your neighborhood?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Please list any other activities you will be involved in during the school year. Include employment, sports, community, school clubs, and religious groups.

What personal skills and characteristics do you possess that would make you a good representative?

If you could bring one thing to this City or change one thing, what would it be?

Are you interested in community service hours for this project?

YES _____ NO _____

Please list two adult references (other than family). One reference must be either your school principal, teacher, or other school personnel. A second reference must be from one community leader (i.e., coach, business owner, government official, clergy) who is familiar with you.

Reference 1

Name/Relationship: _____

Phone/E-mail: _____

Reference 2

Name/Relationship: _____

Phone/E-mail: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Permission

I give my permission for _____ to seek the position of representative on the Orange City Youth Council.

Signature of Parent/Guardian:

Date: _____

Emergency Phone: _____

I have read and understand the commitment required for the Orange City Youth Council. I also realize the importance of teamwork and cooperation, and I am willing to make this commitment.

Student Signature: _____

IF MINOR, CHECK BOXES

VOLUNTEER HOLD HARMLESS AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT

I, _____, (a minor) wish to perform services as a voluntary member of the Youth Council for the City of Orange City, Florida.

I undertake to perform these services for the experience and self-satisfaction I will gain from this public service. I understand that I am not nor will I be an Orange City employee nor will I be eligible for any of the benefits of an Orange City employee except to the extent State law mandates volunteer participation in a benefit program.

(We, _____, and _____, parent(s) or guardian(s) of _____, wish our child/ward to have the benefit of performing services for Orange City, FL.)

In consideration of Orange City's permission to perform volunteer services, I, for myself and my assigns, (and we, as parents or guardians, for ourselves and our assigns) do hereby release and discharge Orange City, its agents, officers and employees from any and all claims, demands, grievances, and causes of action of every kind whatsoever, including, but not by way of limitation, all liability for property damages and personal injury of every kind, nature or description arising or which may hereafter arise from said permission, volunteer's performance of services or volunteer's presence on the work site.

I/We hereby indemnify and hold harmless Orange City, FL for any and all claims, demands and causes of action of every kind and nature arising out of said permission, volunteer's performance of services, or volunteer's presence on the work site.

Volunteer's Signature

Date: _____

Social Security #: _____

Address

City State Zip

Division Manager

Date: _____

IF MINOR, Signature of Parent(s)
Or Guardian(s)

Date: _____