



City of Thornton Youth Council Manual



THORNTON YOUTH COUNCIL (TYC) PURPOSE AND GUIDELINES

The purpose of the Youth Council is to be a leader in volunteering and engaging with the community by performing and upholding the following Thornton Parks, Recreation and Community Program (TPRCP) rules and responsibilities:

- Attend Youth Council meetings and volunteer activities.
- Actively participate in the meetings.
- Maintain at least a 2.0 GPA ("C" Average).
- Be respectful of others and their ideas.
- Abide by the contract decided upon by the Youth Council in the beginning of term.
- Design a variety of fun and safe activities for Youth and Teen Night.
- Demonstrate leadership qualities for other youth.
- Present Youth and Teen Night and engagement information to schools, organizations and committees if requested.
- Provide ideas for other youth and teen program activities.
- Stay out of trouble at school and with law enforcement.
- Be drug and alcohol free.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Youth Council Eligibility

All applicants must be residents of Thornton and must be Middle School or High School students.

Youth Council Membership Terms

The Youth Council has several term options.

- Term One is the fall semester (Aug-Jan)
- Term Two is the spring semester (Feb-May)
- Term Three is the full year (Aug-May).

Youth Council Applications

Applications are available online. Applications are accepted throughout the year.

MEETINGS

Meeting Protocol

At the beginning of each TYC term, council members will determine the meeting schedule and the policies and procedures by which they will abide so that the group is able to function fairly and efficiently. All members must sign the contract once all these policies and procedures are established and agreed upon by the group.

Attendance

TYC will meet with TPRCP's Recreation Coordinator and/or Youth and Teen Specialist for regular meetings each month during the school year. Members need to contact the Recreation Coordinator and/or the Youth and Teen Specialist if they are unable to attend or are running late for any meeting or volunteer activity.

Role of Council Members at Meeting

- Be respectful of others.
- Share ideas
- Listen actively to other Council Members
- Allow others to finish speaking before asking questions and/or expressing opinions
- Disagreeing respectfully with an idea

Decision Making

The Youth Council will follow the rules of a democracy in which majority rules. A motion to vote is made after reasonable debate, with both sides giving their opinions; then another Council Member must second the motion. Motions are narrowed down to only two choices under reasonable circumstances. The facilitator shall call out the choices for the vote. Certain circumstances may call for a heads down vote, to be agreed upon by Council Members prior to the vote. If a member is not present during a vote, they lose the right to vote as well as the right to discuss the issue. The Youth and Teen Coordinator or Youth and Teen Specialist will decide tiebreakers. All members should uphold the decision of the vote, even if it was not the side they originally voted for.

EXPECTATIONS/BEHAVIOR

The Youth Council Members are expected to set a positive example at all times and at all youth events and activities. Their behavior sets a positive example for all youth and teens in the community. It is necessary to maintain positive behavior at all times. Members are expected to follow the rules of every facility and program. Similarly, members are expected to honor commitments, including being present and on time.

THORNTON PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS (TPRCP) DEPARTMENT EVENTS

Thorntons Youth Council has the opportunity to volunteer at all of the TPRCP Department events and their associated activities. These include:

- Eggcessible Egg Scramble
- Lions Club Relays
- Thorntonfest
- Fourth of July Celebration
- Harvest Fest
- Trunk or Treat
- WinterFest
- Santa's Calling

Similarly, Thornton Youth Council discusses and decides on various volunteer activities to participate in and/or organize throughout the community. These events and activities should be proposed at least two months in advance of the event date to allow ample time to organize and participate.

Examples include:

- Valentine donations
- Clothing drives
- Soup kitchens
- 5K races
- Fantastic Family Bake Off
- Monster Makeover - Halloween Costume Drive
- Holiday decoration drives

Thornton youth who are not Youth Council Members are welcome to assist and participate in individual volunteer events and activities.