



WESTPORT CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

THE WESTPORT YOUTH COMMISSION

April 15, 2010

To all members of the Westport Community (adults and youth),

The Westport Youth Commission is currently seeking new youth members for the 2010-2011 school year. The Commission is comprised of 30 individuals (half high school students/half adults) who are recommended by the Commission's Board Development Committee and appointed by the First Selectman Gordon Joseloff. There are limited vacancies available so please don't delay! If you are currently in grades 8th through 11th and/or an adult who is interested in discussing youth issues on a monthly basis while making a difference in your community, please take a moment to fill out the attached Interest Inventory and return it to me as soon as possible. For more information, please don't hesitate to contact Elaine Daignault via phone or email.

The appointment process for youth and adults includes the submission of a letter of interest, a completed Interest Inventory and at least one letter of recommendation (attached) on behalf of the candidate by May 18th. Applicants are invited to attend a Youth Commission meeting on May 20th at Town Hall at 7:00pm in Room 201. WYC candidates are STRONGLY encouraged to attend this meeting in order to be considered for appointment.

All WYC meetings are open to the public and are generally scheduled for the third Thursday of each month. All appointments are made by June for the next school year so now is the time to learn more.

Get involved, it's fun!

Elaine Allen Daignault
Coordinator of Youth Services and the Westport Mentor Program
341-1165
elained@westportct.gov

The Westport Youth Commission serves as a catalyst for programs and activities that promote the positive development of youth in their families, schools, community and among their peers. For more information go to www.westportct.gov.



WESTPORT YOUTH COMMISSION

MISSION STATEMENT

The Westport Youth Commission, as advocates for youth, shall assess the needs and interests of young people in Westport and encourage programs and develop resources to respond to these needs.

As a Town agency the Youth Commission is responsible for promoting public knowledge and understanding of youth problems and needs, and stimulating community responses to those problems and needs.

The Commission's primary focus is to serve as a catalyst for programs and activities which promote the positive development of all youth in their families, schools, community, and among their peers.

The Youth Commission is a public meeting, which meets on the third Thursday of every month at 7:15pm usually at Town Hall but occasionally at Toquet Hall; please check for location and scheduling changes in advance.

Accomplishments:

- ◆ Middle school survey to assess interests and needs which resulted in an increase of programs for young people including:
- ◆ Toquet Hall Student Coffee House
- ◆ Compo Beach Skate Park
- ◆ SPEEDIAL – Specifically Prepared for Every Emergency, Dilemma, or Idea in Adolescents' Lives, teen yellow pages
- ◆ Annual Outdoor Movie Summer Series
- ◆ Awareness and education campaign regarding the problem of underage drinking in Westport resulting in comprehensive recommendations to address the issue in Town
- ◆ Westport Youth Commission Website

- ◆ The iMentor program – internet safety peer education program of iSafe America
- ◆ Youth input for the 10-year Town Plan

On going projects:

- ◆ Youth-Adult Partnerships
- ◆ Youth Advocacy
- ◆ Leadership opportunities
- ◆ Bacharach Awards
- ◆ The Mini-golf Project
- ◆ Toquet Hall
- ◆ Student Discount Program
- ◆ Internet Safety – iMentor program
- ◆ Recreation/social activities

2010 WESTPORT YOUTH COMMISSION INTEREST INVENTORY

The Westport Youth Commission is comprised of 30 Westport residents (half high school students 10-12th grade/half adults) who are recommended by the Commission's Board Development Committee and appointed by the First Selectman Gordon Joseloff. Incoming 9th grader inquiries are welcome for the Freshman Committee. Meetings are generally held in the evenings on the third Thursday of each month and members are expected to serve on at least two committees which require varying additional meetings. If you are interested in discussing youth issues on a monthly basis while making a difference in the community and would like to be considered for appointment, please take a moment to complete this short inventory and forward it along with a letter of interest to the below contact information. One letter of reference can be sent directly to Elaine Daignault by May 18th. You will receive an email notification that we received your interest inventory and letter and you may be asked to schedule a time for an interview and/or to attend the May 20th regular meeting.

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ Telephone _____ Email _____

School/or profession: _____ Graduating Year (if student) _____

Please list volunteer activities in which you have been involved and approximately how much time you spend/spent each week on the project. Please include other opportunities which you are considering for the fall of 2008.

What other extracurricular activities are you involved in and how do you intend on balancing these demands along with the duties of being a WYC member? (hobbies, sports teams, clubs, music, spiritual, etc)

Relate an idea, experience or activity which, you believe, is pertinent to enhancing the quality of life for youth and families in Westport.

What does Westport mean to you and what special perspective do you feel that you can contribute?

Please provide contact information of two people who can serve as a personal reference. No relatives please!

| Name | Address | Phone | Email |
|------|---------|-------|-------|
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NO TRANSCRIPTS PLEASE!!

Please submit a letter of interest to be considered for the WYC along with completed interest inventory form by **May 18th, 2010** by fax (341-1073), email to elained@westportct.gov or mail to: **The Westport Youth Commission, Department of Human Services, 110 Myrtle Avenue, Westport, CT 06880**



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Accomplishments:

- Toquet Hall Student Coffee House
Compo Beach Skate Park
SPEEDIAL
TEENFLIX
Underage Drinking Awareness and education
iMentor - Peer internet safety program
Youth input for the 10-year Town Plan

On going projects:

- Youth-Adult Partnerships
Youth Advocacy
Leadership opportunities
Bacharach Awards
New social & recreational program
Internet Safety - iMentor program

April 2010

Dear _____,

_____ would like to be considered for appointment on the Westport Youth Commission, the Town's only appointed body with full youth membership. S/he has given your name as a reference.

The Westport Youth Commission is comprised of 30 Westport residents (half high school students 10-12th grade/half adults) appointed by the First Selectman Gordon Joseloff in June of each year. Adult residents and youth grades 8-11 are invited to inquire. Commission members spend approximately 2-3 hours per month working on various topics of interest to them in an effort to address the needs of youth and families in our community.

Please complete this form and mail it back to the below address no later than May 18th

Thank you.

I have known the above individual for _____ years in the following capacity:

I would / would not recommend her/him for the Commission.

Addition Comments and/or your perceived strengths and weaknesses of this individual:

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Are you interested in learning more about the Westport Youth Commission? Yes or No

Would you be interested in mentoring in the Town's school based mentoring program? Yes or No