



# WESTPORT CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

## THE WESTPORT YOUTH COMMISSION

February 2016

**The Westport Youth Commission is currently seeking 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students and adult members for the 2016-2017 school year!**

The Commission is comprised of 30 individuals (15 high school students/15 adults) who are recommended by the Commission's Board Development Committee and appointed by First Selectman Jim Marpe. Final recommendations will be made by the committee at their first fall meeting.

There are limited vacancies available so please don't delay! If you are currently in grades 8 thru 11 and/or an adult who is interested in discussing youth issues on a monthly basis while making a difference in your community we invite you to join. Those wishing to be considered for 2016-2017 appointment are asked to complete and return the attached Interest Inventory **no later than April 8th, 2016**. Incoming freshman are invited to serve on a Freshman Committee and are encouraged to participate in the Commission's work through-out the year in order to be considered for appointment as sophomores.

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 April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Only completed interest packets will be considered by the Board Development Committee.

All WYC meetings are open to the public and are generally scheduled for the third Thursday of each month. Appointed WYC members commit to participate in at least one advocacy group, and other tasks as needed, throughout the year which involves additional meetings as needed.

Please contact Kevin Godburn at 203-341-1155 or [kgodburn@westportct.gov](mailto:kgodburn@westportct.gov) with any questions.

*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](http://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 generally 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 & On going Projects:**

- ◆ Youth-Adult Partnerships & Youth Advocacy
- ◆ Leadership opportunities
- ◆ Bacharach Awards
- ◆ Needs Assessments & Program Development
- ◆ Recreation/social activities
- ◆ Toquet Hall Teen Center
- ◆ Compo Beach Skate Park
- ◆ SPEEDIAL – Specifically Prepared for Every Emergency, Dilemma, or Idea in Adolescents' Lives, teen yellow pages
- ◆ TEENFLIX - Annual Outdoor Summer Movies
- ◆ iMentor Program – Internet safety and education for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students at BMS & CMS
- ◆ Awareness and education campaign regarding the problem of underage drinking in Westport resulting in comprehensive recommendations to address the issue in Town
- ◆ Youth input for the 10-year Town Plan, Downtown 2020, & Compo Beach Improvement
- ◆ The Westport Kindness Project
- ◆ Participation in the Westport Cinema Initiative
- ◆ Student Discount Cards – A program with the Westport-Weston Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Merchants Association
- ◆ The Westport Police-Youth Collaborative – A partnership with the Teen Awareness Group (TAG)

# 2016 WESTPORT YOUTH COMMISSION INTEREST INVENTORY

The Westport Youth Commission is comprised of 30 Westport residents (15 high school students 10-12<sup>th</sup> grade/15 adults) who are recommended by the Commission's Board Development Committee and appointed by the First Selectman Jim Marpe. Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students are welcome to serve on 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 one advocacy group, which requires 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 Kevin Godburn by April 8th, 2016.

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 2016-2017 school year.

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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)

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

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

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

| Name | Address | Phone | Email |
|------|---------|-------|-------|
|      |         |       |       |
|      |         |       |       |

NO TRANSCRIPTS PLEASE!!

Please submit a letter of interest to be considered for the WYC along with completed interest inventory form by April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 by fax (341-1073), email to [kgodburn@westportct.gov](mailto:kgodburn@westportct.gov) or mail to: The Westport Youth Commission, Department of Human Services, 110 Myrtle Avenue, Westport, CT 06880



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## THE WESTPORT YOUTH COMMISSION

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#### Accomplishments & Projects:

- ◆ Youth-Adult Partnerships & Youth Advocacy
- ◆ Leadership opportunities
- ◆ Needs Assessments
- ◆ Bacharach Awards
- ◆ Toquet Hall Teen Center
- ◆ Compo Beach Skate Park
- ◆ SPEEDIAL
- ◆ TEENFLIX
- ◆ Underage Drinking Awareness & Education
- ◆ The I-Mentor program – Cyber Citizenship peer education program
- ◆ Youth Input Westport Town Plan
- ◆ Student Discounts
- ◆ Participation in the Westport Cinema Initiative
- ◆ The Westport Police-Youth Collaborative

February 2016

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 (15 high school students 10-12<sup>th</sup> grade/15 adults) appointed by the First Selectman Jim Marpe 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 return it no later than April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Thank you.

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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