ASSOCIATION OF YOUTH COUNCILS
AND
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE SUBMISSION FORM

Note: The deadline for consideration for an Award of Excellence is January 31st of each year.

Name of Youth Council _________________________________________________________
Address ______________________________ Telephone __________________________
_______________________________ e-mail _____________________________
_______________________________
Youth Mayor __________________________________________________________________
Council Members ______________________________________________________________
Other Members ________________________________________________________________
Total Number of Youth Members _____________________________
Advisor(s) ___________________________________________________________________

1) Please describe the positive contributions your Youth Council has made in your community
during the past calendar year. These may include positive changes on YCC members, on
individual citizens or groups of people in the community.

2) How has your Youth Council been involved with other community groups to foster
opportunities for peers to participate in community service, to help them become mature citizens,
gain personal achievements, increase their understanding of government, or develop leadership.

3) Describe any projects or circumstances that your Youth Council encountered that were
difficult or extra-ordinary for your Council. How did your Youth Council overcome these
difficulties or circumstances?

4) How has your Youth Council demonstrated competence, growth, or commitment for long
term operation and to foster a positive image for youth among peers, elected officials, and
citizens in your community.

5) Attach letter(s) of support from your local elected officials (Mayor, City Council members)
and others, telling why your Youth Council should receive an Award of Excellence.
Email your YCC Award of Excellence application and support letters to either:

Stan Guy
Utah State University Extension
2949 Old Main Hill
Logan, Utah 84322-2949
e-mail: stan.guy@usu.edu
Fax: 435-797-3845
Work: 435-797-3221

Gary Sessions
Association of Youth Councils

PO Box 254
Mount Hope, Kansas 67108
Telephone: 316-680-4689
e-mail: youth_councils@yahoo.com
Youth Councils with 20 or More Members
1st Place Youth Council of Excellence Award
2nd Place Youth Council of Excellence Award
3rd Place Youth Council of Excellence Award

Youth Councils with Less than 20 Members
1st Place Youth Council of Excellence Award
2nd Place Youth Council of Excellence Award
3rd Place Youth Council of Excellence Award

TIME LINE FOR AWARDS PROGRAM

Jan - Dec  Youth Councils operate and document their success stories, newspaper clippings, activities, etc. for Jan-Dec of the prior year to retain for their history.

Jan  Councils complete the four sections of the Award of Excellence application and support letters and submit them electronically as a PDF or MS Word file by January 31st for review by judges.

Feb  Judges will include a five member panel with two Association of Youth Councils representatives, a USU Extension representative, a USU Conference and Institute representative, and a Utah League of Cities and Towns representative.

Mar  Awards are given at the Annual AYC/USU Leadership Institute.

Send YCC Award of Excellence application and information to either:

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Utah State University Extension  Association of Youth Councils
2949 Old Main Hill  PO Box 254
Logan, Utah 84322-2949  Mount Hope, Kansas 67108
e-mail: stan.guy@usu.edu  Telephone: 316-680-4689
Fax: 435-797-3845  e-mail: youth_councils@yahoo.com
Work: 435-797-3221
Judges will determine the Youth City Councils that embody the Association of Youth Councils mission to provide opportunity for youth to develop mature citizenship, leadership, a sense of personal achievement, and an understanding of government. Councils should keep a written or electronic history, scrapbook, newspaper clippings, and other records showing the Council’s activities and accomplishments. This history should be made available to judges to help determine which Councils receive the Excellence Awards.

Judging will be based on the following areas:

Accomplishments Based on Youth City Council Goals (25 points possible)

Identify where the Youth Council contributes to/or meets community needs and solves community problems.

Community Involvement (25 points possible)

A Youth City Council will rate high if they collaborate with and involve other community resources and agencies in accomplishing Youth City Council goals and the city’s goals.

Overcoming Difficulty (25 points possible)

The degree of difficulty in planning and implementing a project or running a Youth City Council will be taken into consideration as part of the judging process.

Commitment to Youth City Council Progress (25 points possible)

Consideration will be given if a Youth Council demonstrates progress or competence in operating a Youth City Council and in articulating realistic goals for the future development of their Youth City Council.

Accomplishments Based on Youth City Council Goals (25 points possible)

Identifying where the Youth Council contributes to/or meets community needs.

Under the USU Extension and AYC Awards program community’s needs are broken down into four categories: Planning; Human Relations, Cultural Enrichment and Community Service; Economic Development; and Physical Environment. Youth Councils should look to one or more of these areas for projects that benefit their communities. Projects that Youth City Councils might want to consider, but are in no way limited to, are the following:

Planning
* Help your city council or city planning and zoning commission conduct a community needs assessment.
* Organize or participate in a community visioning process that focuses on what your council and other youth want your city to be and look like in 5 years, 10 years, 20 years.
* Become involved in planning and zoning by attending planning and zoning meetings or participate as members of citizen committees.
* Team up with another city to do a Acommunity swap@ analysis where teams of visitors Aswap@
communities for a day-long visit to view a community and help the host community see themselves as others do. Each team shares its objective impressions of the host community, describing the features which were most attractive and offering suggestions for improvement.

*Review your cities planning and zoning policies and ordinances and compare them to best practices.
*Review your cities 5 year plan and see where the Youth City Council can contribute time and/or resources to accomplishing one or more goals of your city.
*Review the cities budget and see how taxes are used, how the city gets other money, how they prioritize their needs, and spend their money.

**Human Relations, Cultural Enrichment, Community Service**

*Sponsor a Why I Love My City® speech or essay contest using local experts as judges.
*Participate in local festivals or City Days® celebrations honoring your city or its history.
*Promote or participate in activities that encourage residents to learn about and appreciate historical and emerging cultures and ethnic backgrounds of residents in your city.
*Organize and sponsor activities for children.
*Plan activities or programs that bring old and young people together to learn from each other.
*Work with civic clubs to improve some aspect of your community.
*Provide service to your local libraries.
*Become involved with summer camps or day camps that celebrate the arts.
*Have projects and activities that support your local law enforcement, fire department, and emergency medical services.
*Do projects that benefit your local city recreation programs.
*Adopt a Grandparent.
*Become involved in tutoring, mentor programs.

**Economic Development**

*Learn about and develop basic employment skills such as arriving to work on time, following directions, working with others in a team, interviewing skills, dress standards, etc.
*Learn about and become involved with your Chamber of Commerce, its history and mission, and see how the Youth City Council may help with concerns of your area=s businesses.
*Have activities that help YCC members become acquainted with business etiquette, including how to conduct yourself in business meetings, luncheons, and the proper protocol in social situations.
*Become familiar with the existing businesses in your community and look for ways that you can help them expand or be more efficient.
*Become familiar with your city=s business licensing, business planning and zoning and ordinance requirements.
*Learn about the different employers in your city and the types of jobs, skills, and education requirements needed to work there.
*Develop interviewing skills, including appropriate dress, timeliness, how to answer interview questions, etc.

**Physical Environment**

*Work on projects that enhance public parks, buildings, and property.
*Using disposable cameras, conduct a visual community snapshot of Alikes® and Adislikes® of your city by having YCC members or residents take pictures of the things they see that they like or dislike about their community. Report your findings to the City Council, planning and zoning
commission, or other organizations and plan a project to eliminate one of the dislikes about your community.

* Participate in or plan community cleanup days, city beautification contests, etc.
* Work to clean up local riverbanks, restore vegetation, or plant trees.
* Promote water conservation projects or programs in your community.
* Adopt a Highway

**Community Involvement**

A Youth City Council will rate high if they collaborate with and involve other community resources and agencies in accomplishing the city=s governmental goals and local Youth City Council goals.

Possible areas that YCC=s might consider include:

* Do a yearly fund-raising project and give the proceeds to a community agency in need.
* Cooperate with your school to have joint youth activities.
* Work with your local arts council on festivals.
* Set up and become part of reading buddies or tutoring programs with younger children.
* Work with other youth programs, such as 4-H, Boys and Girls Club, etc., in your city on joint projects.
* Work with civic clubs.
* Do projects that develop your interaction skills with adults of all ages.

**Overcoming Difficulty**

The degree of difficulty in planning and implementing a project will be taken into consideration as part of the judging process.

* Does the planning and implementation of projects involve only a few YCC members or is the project complex and involves many members.
* Are there out-of-the ordinary circumstances affecting the YCC, the community?
* Does the project require long-term time commitments from its members?
* Are there multiple partners involved in the project?

**Commitment to Youth City Council Progress**

Consideration will be given if a Youth Council demonstrates progress or competence in operating a Youth City Council and in articulating realistic goals for the future development of their Youth City Council.

* Does the Youth City Council take advantage of AYC training and conferences.
* Does it hold regular meetings, are they efficient. Are agendas used?
* Does the Youth City Council have a good working relationship with the Mayor and City Council and City staff?
* Does the Youth City Council have means for electing or appointing new members.
* Does the Youth City Council have ways to help all members grow and have leadership opportunities.
* Does the Youth City Council plan activities and service in advance.