



WESTPORT CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

THE WESTPORT YOUTH COMMISSION

March 2020

The Westport Youth Commission is currently seeking 9th-12th grade students and adult members for the 2020-2021 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 2020-2021 appointment are asked to complete and return the attached Interest Inventory **no later than May 8, 2020.** 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 May 8, 2020. 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 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.



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 6th 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
- ◆ Student Creation Market: A downtown showcase and fair of local student businesses
 - ◆ 'Real Talk' College Process Discussion
 - ◆ 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) responsible for Dodge-A-Cop & Capture-A-Cop

2020 WESTPORT YOUTH COMMISSION INTEREST INVENTORY

The Westport Youth Commission is comprised of 30 Westport residents (15 high school students 10-12th grade/15 adults) who are recommended by the Commission's Board Development Committee and appointed by the First Selectman Jim Marpe. Incoming 9th 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 May 8, 2020

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 2020-2021 school year.

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 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 8, 2020 by email to kgodburn@westportct.gov or mail to:

The Westport Youth Commission, Department of Human Services, 110 Myrtle Avenue, Westport, CT 06880



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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
◆ Real Talk: College Planning Discussion
◆ The Westport Police-Youth Collaborative
◆ Student Creation Market

March 2020

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 10-12th 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 May 8, 2020

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