



Youth Advisory Board Council Liaison Application

Name: Manya Tewari Phone #: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]

What grade are you entering in the fall of 2024? Please circle 9th 10th 11th 12th
School Attending: Sunrise Mountain High School ✓

Have you been a Youth Advisory Board member for at least six months? Yes No
✓

The following questions are to be answered in short-answer, essay format. Use separate sheets of paper or digital documents if needed.

- Select one of the following areas:
Public Safety, Economic Development, Water Security, Innovative Government.

Please share your interest in the area and how advancement in that area will benefit the youth in Peoria.
- Please describe your experiences with government activities (Youth Government Day, Legislature Field Trip, School Government functions, or other related):
- Please describe an accomplishment in your recent past that you feel illustrates your qualifications for the position of YAB Council Liaison:
- How do you plan to contribute to the Peoria community while serving in this capacity?

Please also provide two (2) Letters of Recommendation (professional/work/school).

I agree to the YAB Council Liaison guidelines and the commitment to attending the City Council meetings to represent the youth of Peoria.

[REDACTED]
Signature

03/03/2024
Date



Office Use Only:

Date of Appointment: 5/3/2022

% of YAB meetings attended in the past 12 months: 100%

Manya Tewari

Youth Council Liaison Application 2024-2025

1. Select one of the following areas: Public Safety, Economic Development, Water Security, Innovative Government. Please share your interest in the area and how

advancement in that area will benefit the youth in Peoria: Economic Development is a topic

quite personal to me as I have a strong passion for improving the quality of life and the

community in Peoria. I am a student in the Peoria Unified School District and am therefore

familiar with the concerns of students on my campus as well as other campuses in the district.

For example, Liberty High School has an overcrowding issue which progressively seems to

worsen and many students are beginning to worry for their safety at school as more physical

fights are breaking out and drug use among teenagers increasingly worsens. Additionally, many

CTE clubs such as Deca, Hosa, Fbla, etc. require a fee to be involved, yet many students are

unable to afford the fee. Students should be able to be involved in activities outside academics

without fear of whether or not it is affordable. All these examples are heavily contributing factors

as to why I am interested in Economic Development for the City of Peoria. An advancement in

economic development will benefit the youth in Peoria since it will improve the unity and

learning environment of schools. Having said this, students would benefit from a higher school

budget and resources that are easily accessible for them to reach out to for questions about youth

mental health, drug prevention, community engagement, etc.

2. Please describe your experiences with government activities (Youth Government

Day, Legislature Field Trip, School Government functions, or other related): I attended the

League of Arizona Cities and Towns (LACT) Conferences in 2022 and 2023. The past two years

I have been present at this conference has given me the opportunity to network with students from Youth City Councils all over the state. During some of the insightful conversations I have had with these students, we shared feedback on what each of our boards were doing to address the concerns of the youth. Furthermore, I personally have received a new perspective and understanding from these discussions that I believe I could use to serve as a leader in our community. Additionally, I attended the National League of Cities (NLC) Conference at Kansas City in 2022. People who worked and/or were involved in local government such as mayors, council members, etc. from all over the country attended this conference as well. During the NLC 2022 Conference I was present at sessions and panels in which city officials spoke as key speakers and answered questions which allowed me to gain a deeper understanding on how local government functions. I have been a member of the Civic Engagement Committee on the Youth Advisory Board for almost two years and now serve as its Vice Chair, hence I am a huge part of the planning of Youth Government Day (YGD) and was present at the event in 2023 and 2024. Attending this event is something I truly look forward to as students are able to learn about youth involvement in local government and Youth Advisory Board members help to guide them throughout the event. As a strong youth advocate and a passionate member of the Board I love to speak to other students at YGD about community and civic engagement. In order to spread the word of YGD 2024, I along with another Youth Advisory Board member traveled to various PUSD Elementary Schools to speak about the event.

3. Please describe an accomplishment in your recent past that you feel illustrates your qualifications for the position of YAB Council Liaison: I have recently founded a club at my school known as the Civic Engagement Club and I am now serving as the President. The club is dedicated to involving students in the community by allowing them

opportunities to engage in youth- held discussions on how we can better the environment of our campus. Additionally, the club runs an anti-vape and mental health campaign and we plan to host an event to create unity among students and expose them to useful resources. My goal when I started this club was to bring the message to my fellow peers that they hold the power to make change through local government. The Civic Engagement Club serves as a backbone for allowing students to expose themselves to the Peoria community.

4. How do you plan to contribute to the Peoria community while serving in this

Capacity: I plan on serving the Peoria community by representing the youth as a strong advocate and addressing their concerns while serving as a Youth Council Liaison. I am fully aware of my duties as a Liaison member and I am prepared to serve City Council to the best of my abilities. More specifically, I plan to address the adversity our youth face while also accommodating the various perspectives of City Council and community members. In addition to this, I will provide my insight as a youth on the newest projects the City plans and the effect it has on the youth in the community. Finally, I will take into account the feedback of our community members in order to ensure their needs for a positive living quality are looked after and to personally gain a deeper perspective on them.



SUNRISE MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL

21200 N. 83rd Avenue, Peoria, AZ 85382-2436
Phone (623) 487-5125 • Fax (623) 487-5140

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my sincere pleasure to recommend Manya Tewari for the Youth Council Liaison position she is seeking. Since coming to know Manya as the creator and president of the Sunrise Mountain Civic Engagement Club, I have been astounded by her maturity, passion for civic issues, and work ethic. In addition, Manya is one of the most positive, engaging, and warm young ladies I have ever known.

Manya approached me in the Fall of 2023 with an idea to start a club on campus that would be devoted to increasing civic awareness and outreach on the Sunrise Mountain campus. Her passion and tenacity impressed me immediately. Once I agreed to sponsor the club, she began recruiting others to join. She solicited input from club members and then wrote the club's constitution and bylaws. Once the club was approved, Manya was voted President and began brainstorming and organizing meetings and upcoming events. She often references her involvement with the Youth City Council to guide the activities of the club on campus. I have been astounded to see someone so young be so civically minded and motivated to make a difference. I have every confidence that Manya will make the club goals a reality as we begin to hold events this Spring.

Manya's character is also exemplary. No matter the day, stress, or circumstance, she is quick to smile and is ready to get to work. She always finds the positive in any situation. Her mature and positive outlook set the tone for club meetings.

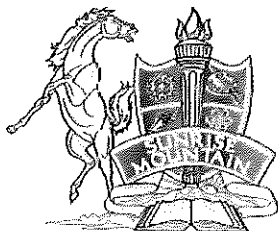
One of Manya's strongest qualities is her ability to manage a busy schedule of extracurricular interests with a rigorous academic course load. If given the opportunity, I am certain Manya will handle the position of Youth Council Liaison with the same grace, maturity, reliability, and determination I have come to expect from her. I have every confidence that Manya will turn this opportunity into a steppingstone that will assist her in all her civic endeavors.

Manya is the best Sunrise has to offer, not just academically, but also because of her passion, example, dedication, and influence. It is for these reasons that I offer my highest recommendation of Manya Tewari for the Youth Council Liaison position.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Kimberly Cockrell.

Kimberly Cockrell M.Ed., M.A.
Sunrise Mountain High School
623-487-5125
kcockrell@pusd11.net



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March 6th, 2024


To whom it may correspond:

This is a letter of recommendation for Manya Tewari. I am a Math Honors teacher at Sunrise Mountain High School, and I know Manya as one of my students. Manya was a self-motivated student that had the desire to learn. She worked diligently to meet all expectations academically. She showed respect for the learning environment and for her classmates. Manya exceeded all expectations for student responsibility.

My approach to teaching students is to not only make sure that students learn mathematics, but that they learn how to communicate their knowledge as well. Sometimes this approach can be challenging for some students. Manya responded well to this challenge. I encourage students to work in small groups in my class to give students experience in teamwork. Manya was an active participant and a valuable member of her team.

Manya's determination for excellence, her talents, and her kind spirit will make her an excellent candidate for any program.

Sincerely,


Kim G. Rhodes
Math Teacher