

## YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD – Residency Requirement

Authority: City Code, Chapter 3, Sections 3-46 and 3-47

Members: 19 and 2 Alternates

Duties: This Board advises the City, through the City Manager on the development of public recreational and youth activities and programs in the city, plans and implements a Student Government Day, and reviews ordinances or proposals pertaining to youth activities as directed by the City Council.

Liaison: Chris Hallett / Neighborhood and Human Services

Vacant
Graduating May 2024
Reappointment

### CURRENT MEMBERS

Name	District	Alt?	School Attending	Graduation	Appointed	Reappt'd	Expiration
Adamsha, Sarah	Willow	No	BASIS Peoria	5/2027	4/25/2023		6/30/2025
Black, Allie	Willow	No	Liberty High School	5/2025	4/25/2023		6/30/2024
DeStefano, Karin	Mesquite	No	Glendale Preparatory Academy	5/2025	4/25/2023		6/30/2025
Dyer, Mikah	Ironwood	No	Sunset Heights	5/2024	5/4/2021	4/25/2023	6/30/2025
Fisher, Harmony	Acacia	No	Centennial High School	5/2024	5/3/2022		6/30/2024
Harris, Kellen	Mesquite	No	West Wing Elementary	5/2028	11/15/2023		6/30/2026
Holly, Felicia	Pine	No	Peoria Elementary School	5/2027	4/25/2023		6/30/2025
Houg, Jacob	Ironwood	No	Sunrise Mountain High School	5/2026	4/25/2023		6/30/2025
Lowry, Liam	Willow	No	Brophy College Prep	5/2024	4/25/2023		6/30/2024
Patel, Aneesa	Mesquite	No	Liberty High School	5/2025	4/25/2023		6/30/2025
Powell, Kimber	Willow	No	Zuni Hills Elementary	5/2025	5/4/2021	4/25/2023	6/30/2025
Ravindran, Riya	Willow	No	Mountain Ridge High School	5/2025	5/3/2022	4/25/2023	6/30/2025
Rosales, Audrina	Pine	Yes	Paseo Verde Elementary	5/2026	8/23/2022		6/30/2024
Sehgal, Aditya	Willow	No	BASIS Peoria	5/2024	4/25/2023		6/30/2024
Shrivastava, Ana	Mesquite	No	BASIS Peoria	5/2026	5/4/2021	4/25/2023	6/30/2025
Solano, Olivia	Pine	No	Peoria Elementary School	5/2028	4/25/2023		6/30/2025
Stanca, Samuel	Ironwood	Yes	Glendale Preparatory Academy	5/2025	4/25/2023		6/30/2024
Tewari, Manya	Ironwood	No	Great Heart Academies	5/2027	5/3/2022		6/30/2024
Vanteri, Ronit	Willow	No	BASIS Peoria	5/2026	5/3/2022		6/30/2024
Vemana, Akshathram	Willow	No	BASIS Peoria	5/2026	5/4/2021	4/25/2023	6/30/2025
Whetstine, Alliyz	Pine	No	Glendale Preparatory Academy	5/2024	5/3/2022		6/30/2024

### INITIAL APPOINTMENT INTERVIEWS:

- Carter Blake
- Madison Caspers
- Aswini Kaza
- Felicia Manuel
- Anika Navghare

### REAPPOINTMENT INTERVIEWS:

- Ronit Vanteri

### YOUTH COUNCIL LIAISON INTERVIEWS:

- Sarah Adamsha
- Manya Tewari

**INITIAL APPOINTMENT INTERVIEWS:**

Name	District	Graduation Date & Qualification Summary
Blake, Carter	Ironwood	<p><b>Graduation: 2025 / Glendale Prep Academy / Affiliation: No</b></p> <p><b>Interests:</b> I am interested in serving on the Youth Advisory Board because I think it will be a great opportunity for me to grow as a leader and help make the City of Peoria a better place for the community.</p> <p><b>Extracurriculars:</b> Refereeing, Student Mentoring at Glendale Preparatory Academy, Student Government Leader at Glendale Preparatory Academy, Serving at CCV Peoria, Student Leadership Team at CCV Peoria, Team Captain on Varsity Soccer Team at Glendale Preparatory Academy, Varsity Baseball Player at Glendale Preparatory Academy, Registered CCV Soccer Coach, FC Barcelona Youth Soccer Camp Instructor.</p> <p><b>Qualities:</b> Based on my experience as a leader in the above areas listed, the qualities I exhibit would be Humility, Integrity, Honesty, Faith-based beliefs, Athletes Perspective, and Responsibility to the community. All of these qualities are essential to providing a strong perspective on the Youth Advisory Board.</p> <p><b>Meaning of civic engagement:</b> Civic Engagement is me being willing to participate in a discussion with people my age. I believe it is also me speaking on behalf of Glendale Preparatory Academy and the faith-based community I belong to to influence decisions made by the City of Peoria.</p>
Caspers, Madison	Other	<p><b>Graduation Date: 2025 / Glendale Prep Academy / Affiliation: No</b></p> <p><b>Interests:</b> I would like to stand up for my beliefs in the hopes of being a voice that can speak out on city affairs. I also want to become more involved in our city.</p> <p><b>Extracurriculars:</b> I am a leader on our Fellowship of Christian Athletes team at G.P.</p> <p><b>Qualities:</b> I show leadership, and I can speak my mind articulately. I also think thoroughly about things, and I care very much about what I believe is right and good.</p> <p><b>Meaning of Civic Engagement:</b> To me, civic engagement is the idea of working toward achieving the best for your community. I think it's important to care about and be involved in public affairs. The character of our city matters to me, so I want to be a voice that speaks out for what I believe to be true in the hopes of bettering our community.</p>
Kaza, Aswini	Willow	<p><b>Graduation: 2027 / BASIS Peoria / Affiliation: No</b></p> <p><b>Interest:</b> I am interested in getting more experience in this field, by becoming a board member I hope to gain more leadership skills as well as new opportunities to expand my knowledge of what it's like being a board member and also a part of a committee</p> <p><b>Extracurricular:</b> Deans Team (volunteering and giving back to the school community), National Art Honor Society( We sometimes make cards and give them out to hospices or hospitals to add some brightness to their day)</p> <p><b>Qualities:</b> Qualities I would bring as a youth advisory board member are being punctual, interest in service, as well as passion, and excellent organizational skills.</p> <p><b>Meaning of civic engagement:</b> To me, civic engagement means being involved in the community and working towards refining and fixing its problems. Civic engagement also is to be volunteering and helping in the community as well as outside of the community.</p>
Manuel, Felicia  <b>Continued to next page</b>	Willow	<p><b>Graduation: 2027 / Mountain Ridge High School / Affiliation: No</b></p> <p><b>Interest:</b> While serving for the Youth Advisory Board, I would like to gain newfound skills and voice my opinion in ways I've never done before. Clearly, this opportunity is a great one and I would love to gain this unique experience that teaches the youth how their voice matters in our community. Voicing my thoughts and ideas is something I'm extremely passionate about to support my community. Also, I hope that the peers that listen to me will be respectful and supportive, and I hope to gain long-lasting bonds with my fellow board members. Moving forward, I want to be able to take part in the ways of the government step by step and to say some things about our law that I think are controversial at ease. When saying these things, I know that not everyone on the board will agree with me and that's okay. Overall, I hope to gain leadership skills, long-lasting friendships, improve my communication skills, voice my opinions confidently and clearly and have healthy debates.</p> <p><b>Extracurriculars:</b> Some extracurricular activities and hobbies I think that will be extremely beneficial to my role as a board member on the Youth Advisory Board are DECA, Toastmasters International and taking part in many plays/musicals at school. The gist of DECA is to teach kids how to communicate their ideas properly in the workforce, and mostly in the business area. Business can be very contradictory and controversial, so DECA shows that not everyone will love your ideas at first and tailoring can always be done no matter what. Toastmasters International is a public speaking club, where members learn how to speak and face their fears in front of an audience that wants to learn the same thing as you. In this club, I participated in debates, speeches and impromptu speaking. Lastly, my interest in plays/musicals taught me to be fearless in</p>

		<p>front of an audience and gave me a boost of confidence. Being a freshman right now, I haven't got any lead roles, but in the eighth grade I was Fiona in the Shrek Musical and my confidence took a massive leap. Also, serving my community is crucial for me, such as altar-serving at my church, giving and packaging food to the homeless, setting up assemblies in my old elementary in Canada. And teaching kids vocal warmups. Therefore, I feel all these interests and extracurricular activities will help me during my time on the Youth Advisory Board.</p> <p><b>Qualities:</b> Some qualities I bring to the table as a Youth Advisory Board member are leadership, innovation, dedication, drive, care and confidence. I strive to be a leader wherever I go, whether it be at home, school or my community. At home I'm an older sister, so my role as a leader at home surely cannot be non-existent. Next, innovation is another trait I bring because everyday new ideas are popping into my head and I want to share them with the world and for good causes, like the Youth Advisory Board. Dedication to me, means to be committed to something and never find excuses. Of course, this role is a big one, so I'll have to be committed to my fellow board members, board meetings and my personal definition of civic engagement. During my time as a Youth Advisory Board member I will show care to my community with thoughtful and creative ideas. I believe drive and confidence will be present whenever I speak to my fellow board members and hope I can gain more likeable qualities throughout my experience. Presenting my ideas with confidence is something I will do effectively and learn how to be even more confident with myself and my ideas.</p> <p><b>Meaning of Civic Engagement:</b> To me, civic engagement is when any individual in our community can speak their ideas/concerns freely knowing that they will not be judged negatively for their ideas. Collaboration is also a big part of civic engagement because not just 5 members on a council can make a change, or just one singular mayor alone with their ideas. We need the minds of many people, with different perspectives and outlooks on public concerns of our community. Evidently, too many perspectives can be confusing, but that's why on the Youth Advisory Board, we can have healthy debates and determine the importance of all ideas and come to a mutual agreement. There are countless problems within our community that so many people have so many ideas about. And this is why we have councils, people and boards like the Youth Advisory Board to express our ideas and not speak for others, but let others speak for themselves. Everyone has some sort of negative opinion on our community that's personal to them and they should be able to say their thoughts with ease. Justice and advocacy is also a big part of civic engagement because individuals should be able to support their own religion, race and cultural groups. Overall, I believe that every individual has the freedom of speech and should be able to use it in a way that will benefit their own community. If we take the time to listen, we realize that everyone has a voice and this magnificent brain filled with the greatest ideas. Everyone is worthy of justice and change, and I would love to be part of the journey the Youth Advisory Board will take me on to achieve these goals of mine.</p>
Navghare, Anika	Willow	<p><b>Graduation Date: 2027 / Mountain Ridge High School / Affiliation: No</b></p> <p><b>Interest:</b> Understand local issues of citizens as life learning experience; Bringing incremental value addition in the lives of Peoria Citizens; Building a strong collaboration with local non profits and enable them to achieve YAB's mission; YAB experience will be able to help gain Civic engagement experience, life learning lessons of citizens from different walks of life</p> <p><b>Extracurriculars:</b> Currently serving as a member of Youth Advisory Council, Maricopa Community on Public Health Issues; Took part in invocation ceremony for Peoria Mayor's council meeting and received appreciation from the Mayor; Led a group of volunteers in Peoria in 2023 for food donation drive and collected 500lbs and donated it to Navajo Nation; Received Congressional recognition from Debbie Lesko and David Schweikert for food donation drive; Served as a member of National Art Honor; Society (NAHS) and involved in various volunteering activities; Participated in fund raising programs such as food stalls, volleyball tournaments etc; Involved in an exhibition hosted at Glendale Community College (GCC) on Indian culture; Actively participated in various food packaging drives in Peoria such as for "Feed My Starving Children"; Participated in cultural exhibition on India which was attended by Phoenix City Civic officials; Led public Yoga / Sun Salutation events for last two years in Peoria / Phoenix; Pursuing Indian form of classical dancing. Adept at Piano and Flute.</p> <p><b>Qualities:</b> Strong previous experience working with various organizations and effective collaboration; Translating an advice into action based on earlier experiences; Asking right questions to expand particular thought process; Researching ability of any particular subject and have a meaningful dialogue with the team; Ability to network with new people; Strong communication skills</p> <p><b>Meaning of Civic Engagement:</b> Help enhancing the standard of living of the community through various initiatives; Bring awareness of important issues like global warming, pollution etc among citizens; Understanding aspirations, problems of local citizens; Provide an insightful information to Mayor's office to help formulate productive policies; Be empathetic towards citizens</p>

**REAPPOINTMENT INTERVIEWS:**

Name	District	Graduation Date & Qualification Summary
Vanteri, Ronit	Willow	<p><b>Graduation: 2026 / BASIS Peoria / Affiliation: No</b></p> <p><b>Interest:</b> I am interested to join the Youth Advisory Board to make more of an impact on my community and to help Youth gain more of a voice in their community. While serving in the youth advisory board, I am hoping to learn how to improve youth interactions with each other and learn how to be a more valuable member of my community.</p> <p><b>Extracurricular/Civic/Community Activities:</b> Some of my favorite hobbies include drawing, playing badminton, and occasionally volunteering at a food bank. Extracurriculars that I have done include a Java course and a python course.</p> <p><b>Qualities:</b> I would bring a more positive vibe and creative ideas such as helping to create awareness for texting and driving. Even though this is illegal, so many people still do it and get hurt every day.</p> <p><b>Civic Engagement Meaning:</b> To me civic engagement means that a member of a community must constantly be involved in making their community a better place. Some of these activities include volunteering at a food bank, participating in a community cleanup, helping the elderly, or just picking up some trash on the street. All these activities help make your community a better place.</p>