



# Youth Advisory Board Council Liaison Application



Name: Mariano Ortiz Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

What grade are you entering in fall of 2025? Please circle 9th **10th** 11th 12th  
School Attending: Centennial HS

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 document if needed.

1. What are two topics that you believe affect the City of Peoria that you would like to contribute to in discussion and possible action?  
See attached page
2. Please describe your experiences with government activities (Youth Government Day, Legislature Field Trip, School Government functions, or other related):
3. Please describe an accomplishment in your recent past that you feel illustrates your qualifications for the position of YAB Council Liaison:
4. Why do you want to be the next Youth Advisory Board Council Liaison?

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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Application and two letters of recommendation due to Brian Carrico by Thurs, February 13, 2025 by 5pm,  
Email to [brian.carrico@peoriaaz.gov](mailto:brian.carrico@peoriaaz.gov) or drop at Community Services Office, 9875 N. 85<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Office Use Only:	
Date of Appointment: _____	<u>7/1/24</u>
% of YAB meetings attended in the past 12 months: _____	<u>100%</u>

**BW**

Mariano Ortiz  
Centennial High School  
As of fall 2025 - 10<sup>th</sup> grade  
02-18-25

1. What are two topics that you believe affect the City of Peoria that you would like to contribute to in discussion and possible action?

- Saving Water
- Racial Injustice Protests
- Car Crashes in the area involving teen drivers

2. Please describe your experiences with government activities (Youth Government Day, Legislature Field Trip, School Government functions, or other related):

Last year in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, I attended Youth Government Day with Student Council and I plan on attending again this February but instead of being there, helping out, I've attended the City Summit in Tampa Bay, Florida, and I plan to hopefully go again to be on the Planning Committee soon.

3. Please describe an accomplishment in your recent past that you feel illustrates your qualifications for the position of YAB Council Liaison.

An accomplishment I have is while I was in Tampa Bay, Florida, me and my friend Felicia had won one of the prizes at the City Summit for showing what the future would look like through a poem, I also have over 1000+ hours of community service, I've been in Student Council for about 7 years which includes my first semester of high school.

4. Why do you want to be the next Youth Advisory Board Council Liaison?

I would like to be the next Youth Advisory Board Council Liaison because I believe I'm a very reliable and dependable person to talk to and to help out, I'm very useful and I will help out with anything that I can do, I want to make a new experience for our youth and for myself, I want to explore new options and to hopefully make a difference.

The two letters of recommendations should be under the Name(s) Becky Cothren and Laura Colletti.

**Nicholas Johnson**  
**ENG I Teacher**  
**Centennial High School**  
**nicjohnson@pusd11.net**  
**2/20/2025**

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to wholeheartedly recommend Mari for the position of Youth Liaison Council Member. As a freshman, Mari consistently demonstrates a level of maturity, dedication, and drive that far exceeds his years.

Mari is an exceptionally hard worker who approaches every task with determination and enthusiasm. When in the classroom, during extracurricular activities, or within his community, he commits himself fully to any challenge. His strong work ethic is matched by his remarkable drive to succeed—not only for personal achievement but also to make a positive impact on those around him. He has finished every assignment ahead of time and is a true 1% high achiever.

As a high achiever, Mari consistently sets high standards for himself and follows through with diligence and focus. He excels academically, but what truly sets him apart is his passion for leadership and his desire to be a voice for his peers. His natural ability to listen, empathize, and collaborate makes him an excellent fit for the Youth Liaison Council. He has many friends in class and is well regarded by his classmates.

Mari's commitment to excellence, coupled with his drive to make meaningful contributions, assures me that he will be an invaluable asset to the council. I have every confidence in his ability to represent his peers with integrity, insight, and dedication. I cannot recommend him highly enough for any leadership position in your organization; he will be an asset to any program or initiative you need assistance with.

Thank you for considering Mari for this opportunity. Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,  
**Nicholas Johnson**  
**ENG I, Centennial High School**



**Centennial High School**  
14388 N 79<sup>th</sup> Avenue • Peoria, AZ 85381  
(623) 412-4400

February 19th, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

It is truly a pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Mariano Ortiz. In the time I have known and taught Mariano, he has always proven himself to be motivated, talented, bright, and extremely creative. I have genuinely enjoyed having Mariano as a student in my Newspaper class, and he will always stand out in my mind as an exceptional person. He is incredibly enthusiastic and determined, and he established himself to be an invaluable asset to this class beginning on the first day he joined Newspaper. Mariano always enthusiastically completes his work in a timely, if not early manner. Mariano is always quick to step into a leadership role and immediately commands the respect of his peers. He consistently sets high goals for himself to achieve success in school and always accomplishes those goals. One of these goals included becoming a valued member of the Newspaper staff, and he accomplished this goal by researching and writing many newspaper stories, including arts and entertainment, feature and news stories. His hard work and dedication paid off, and his final stories were impressive, informative and entertaining. Mariano also wrote several stories that were posted in *The Coyote Chronicle Online*, our digital newspaper. These additional stories are well-written, creative and insightful. The quality of the work Mariano consistently submits only reinforces that he truly is an intelligent and dedicated young man.

With his determination and intellect, I believe Mariano is ready for any challenge scholastically or any work force-related problem he might encounter. He has been a diligent student since I have had the pleasure of knowing him, and I believe he'll continue to receive high marks throughout his scholastic career. There is not a single assignment that he doesn't enthusiastically accept. He enjoys and thrives on higher-level learning, which is extremely refreshing to a teacher.

With his fantastic attitude and determination to succeed, Mariano has been a joy to have in class. Without hesitation, I enthusiastically recommend Mariano Ortiz. I am extremely confident Mariano will not only achieve success in all of his future goals but will also thrive with them. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Todd Wolff  
English/Journalism/Creative Writing Teacher  
Newspaper Advisor  
Centennial High School