

Youth Advisory Board Applications

Application Date	Name	District	Graduation Date & Qualification Summary
3/19/2023	Chishom, Karma	Willow	<p>Graduation Date: 2027 / Frontier Elementary / Affiliation: No Interest: I want to be able to volunteer and help the community in the best way possible Extracurriculars: FJHS(NJHS), Morning Announcements Qualities: I would bring my time and help with fundraising and or community service Meaning of Civic Engagement: Civic engagement to me is helping one's community whether that be by doing something as small as picking up trash or helping raise money for a cause to help people or nature</p>
3/29/2023 Interviewed 3/26/2024	Farley, Oliver	Mesquite	<p>Graduation: 2026 / Brophy College Prep / Affiliation: No Interest: I am passionate about making a difference in my community and being a voice for my generation. That's why I am interested in joining a city youth advisory board. Being a part of a youth advisory board would allow me to collaborate with other like-minded individuals and share our perspectives on important issues affecting our community. I believe that young people have unique insights and ideas that can contribute to positive change in our city. Additionally, being part of a youth advisory board would provide me with an opportunity to gain valuable leadership and teamwork skills. By working alongside other young people, we could learn to work together towards a common goal, develop problem-solving skills, and build confidence in our ability to create change. Finally, being part of a city youth advisory board would allow me to make a tangible impact in my community. Through providing feedback to city officials, advocating for policies and initiatives that benefit young people, and organizing events that promote community engagement, we could contribute to making our city a better place for everyone. Overall, I believe that joining a city youth advisory board would be a meaningful and rewarding experience that would allow me to grow as a leader and make a positive impact in my community. Extracurricular/Civic Activities: Cross Country and Track and Field, Rocketry Club and Aerospace Club at Brophy College Prep; Active member of St Thomas More. Next year will serve on the Loyola Project at Brophy College Prep, mentor middle school students. Volunteer with the Creighton Foundation, building Gardens. Participated in many community projects while at Brophy, working for Food for the Hungry and St. Vincent De Paul food pantry, serving food to the unhoused. Playing video games, running, and legos and this summer going into Aerospace flight classes. Qualities: I would bring several qualities to the Youth Advisory Board. I believe that I am a good leader and have experience organizing community service projects and athletic events. I am also a creative person who enjoys coming up with new ideas and solutions. Furthermore, I am a good communicator and listener, which means that I can effectively share my ideas with others and understand their perspectives. I am also a team player and believe in working collaboratively with others to achieve common goals. Most importantly, I am committed to community service and making a positive impact in my community. As a member of the Youth Advisory Board, I would work hard and do my best to contribute to the team's success. Civic Engagement Meaning: I'm a 9th grade student at Brophy College Prep who has taken the oath of Men serving others, I love to make a difference in my community and speak up for my generation. If I join a youth advisory board in my city, I can do just that. Being part of this board means I can work together with other young people who care about the same things as me. We can share our ideas on important issues that affect our community. I believe that as young people, we have different perspectives and ideas that can help make our city a better place. Not only can I share my ideas, but I can also develop skills in leadership and teamwork. By working together, we can learn how to solve problems and build confidence in ourselves. Overall, joining a city youth advisory board would be an awesome experience. I can learn how to be a better leader, work with others, and make a positive impact in my community.</p>

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<p>4/28/2023</p> <p>Interviewed 4/23/2024</p>	<p>Kaza, Aswini</p>	<p>Willow</p>	<p>Graduation: 2027 / BASIS Peoria / Affiliation: No Interest: 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 Extracurricular: 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) Qualities: Qualities I would bring as a youth advisory board member are being punctual, interest in service, as well as passion, and excellent organizational skills. Meaning of civic engagement: 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>
<p>5/10/2023</p> <p>Interviewed 3/26/2024</p>	<p>Navghare, Anay</p>	<p>Willow</p>	<p>Graduation: 2027 / BASIS Peoria / Affiliation: No Interest: 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. Extracurricular/Civic Activities: Currently serving as a member of National Art Honor Society (NAHS) and involved in various volunteering activities; Led a group of volunteers in Peoria in 2022 for food donation drive and collected 500lbs and donated it to Navajo Nation; 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; Passionate about drawing and painting, sensitive about environmental cause. Qualities: 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. Civic Engagement Meaning: 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>
<p>5/17/2023</p> <p>Interviewed 3/18/2025</p>	<p>Cardona-Tait, Lailah</p>	<p>Mesquite</p>	<p>Graduation Date: 2029 / Westwing Elementary School / Affiliation: No Interest: I am interested in this because I want to serve the city of peoria and I hope to gain experience on how to do things and I want to put my hard work into show and use all my dedication to help the city of peoria. I would take helping and protecting the city of peoria very seriously. I want to bring my ideas and experiences to the table and to the city of peoria and I hope the ideas I bring will come to life and still help out the city of peoria. Extracurricular/Civic Activities: I will be running for student council this coming year at my school at west wing. I am always out in my community conversing with neighbors and friends. Qualities: Change and Impact - Im passionate about specific causes and policies; Fresh Perspective - I bring a fresh perspective to city council discussions. My unique experiences, concerns, and ideas can challenge thinking, inject new energy into decision-making processes; I am passionate about making a difference, representing my generation, and shaping the future of my community, it can be a rewarding and impactful journey. Civic Engagement Meaning: Civic engagement empowers me to be able to raise my voice and advocate for causes I believe in. It can involve attending rallies, organizing protests, or starting campaigns to promote positive change and address social, environmental, or political issues that are important to me and my generation.</p>

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5/21/2023	Bhat, Chinmay	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2026 / BASIS Peoria / Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interest: I am interested in the Youth Advisory Board for three reasons: advocating for the youth, adding an unbiased opinion from a member who hasn't reached voting age, and learning and giving awareness about specific issues in our current political system. Starting off, I am a person who has strong opinions in many political conflicts. But, I believe that I can keep those opinions to the side while acting as a delegate or a representative who is supposed to represent my age group rather than using my political opinion to change anything and I think I will be able to gain this skill from the Youth Advisory Board of ignoring my opinion and using the youth's majority opinion whenever speaking for something. In addition, my dream career is being the president of the United States, so by being part of the Youth Advisory Board, I believe that I can learn many things about our current political system. the biases and problems in our system. and how they should be fixed, so if I am able to achieve my dream career, I can fix based off of my observations from the Youth Advisory Board. I also believe that I can make people of my age aware of politics because, in my school, AP U.S. Government and Politics is a mandatory course that every freshman has to take, but there are several schools out there that don't know what politics is, and what the executive branch is, etc. So, I believe that I can keep my age group aware of political issues, and political opinions, and engage teenagers to be a part of politics as soon as possible.</p> <p>Extracurricular: I have participated in two significant clubs related to the Youth Advisory Board: Youth Policy Assembly and the National Junior Honor Society. The Youth Advisory Board is a very politics-based club that discusses, processes, and debates very controversial political issues such as lowering the voting age to 16 and decriminalizing drugs because of medical benefits. We also perform projects for our community and we do projects that help analyze what the politics of the U.S. is doing and how it relates to the changes that the youth want in the political system. In simple terms, this club was made as a different version of the Youth Advisory Board by one of the members of the Youth Advisory Board, Avi. In terms of activities, we have called congressmen all throughout the state and asked about their opinions about certain issues and how much they would be willing to change their policies based on what the youth want. In addition, we also asked a poll asking all high schoolers in our school about their political affiliation, and their stance on high heating political debates, so that we could analyze the statistics. I was also a part of the National Junior Honor Society, where we helped serve our community by volunteering, so I believe that the skill of being able to talk with people and volunteer without any problems would really help me if I was part of the Youth Advisory Board.</p> <p>Qualities: As a member of the Youth Advisory Board, I would bring in qualities such as knowledge and information where I could bring in results of polls that my school has agreed upon. There can be several different opinions and biases in the polls, but getting an average idea of what the current youth wants would really help with analyzing what the next steps are to implement these opinions in the actual political system. I would being an unbiased opinion at all times because regardless of what my opinion is on a specific issue, I always want to make sure that I represent</p>
5/23/2023	Terrones, Randy	Ironwood	<p>Graduation: 2028 / Coyote Hills Elementary / Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interest: Learning more about what it takes to run our city and strengthen my leadership skills.</p> <p>Extracurricular/Civic Activities: Student Council Treasurer and NJHS</p> <p>Qualities: Team player, Hardworking, Leader</p> <p>Civic Engagement Meaning: Helping others and strengthen my community</p>
7/20/2023 Interviewed 3/26/2024	Choi, Roah	Ironwood	<p>Graduation Date: 2027 / Sandra Day O'Connor / Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interest: I am interested in serving on the Youth Advisory Board to work with others in bettering the community. I am also interested in being able to learn about working together with a team. While serving on the Youth Advisory Board, I hope to gain good knowledge on how to problem solve, work as a team, and how to help those with problems. After researching on the work that the Youth Advisory Board, I am very interested in the goals the Board has set. Specifically, visiting youth groups, schools, and community leaders to advocate for the youth aligns with my personal goals.</p>

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7/31/2023	Athota, Grishma	Ironwood	<p>Graduation: 2026/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interest: I am interested in serving on the Youth Advisory Board as I believe I could contribute my opinion from past and current experiences to assist and support the board in making well-informed decisions for the youth. I hope to help address the needs and concerns of the youth and advocate for educational advancements. While serving on the Youth Advisory Board, I hope to gain experience and social communication skills that will help me in the future when it comes to supporting and assisting others in need.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: I am a current Red Cross Volunteer. As a Red Cross Member, I have created cards and posters for emotional support and thanks to community members, assisted in collecting and packing donations to charities and organizations, and spread awareness about the Red Cross Organization. I am also an Honor Health, Desert Mission Food Bank, and St. Mary's Food Bank volunteer. As a volunteer at the Food Bank, I have sorted and packed donated food items to ship to families in need. As a volunteer at Honor Health, I have provided reception support and gave general information to visitors and families. Additionally, I have improved the quality of patient care by engaging with patients and families and Supporting nursing staff by working on a variety of projects to enhance the department.</p> <p>Qualities: I believe I could bring opinions, perspectives, and insights from other youth members residing in the community. I also believe I could assist with promoting certain policies and initiatives using the connections that I have with other youth organizations and clubs. I also believe I could provide valuable expertise based on my past experiences with volunteering for the community.</p> <p>Meaning of Civic Engagement: To me, civic engagement means being involved in the community to promote ideals including education to help the well-being of others in the community. The action involved being aware of issues arising around us and addressing the issues with solutions and advancements. Civic engagement also requires participation, cooperation, and collaboration with other like minded individuals working for the good of the community.</p>
8/20/2023	Bulrich, Komrey	Willow	<p>Graduation Date: 2028 / Hillcrest Middle School / Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interest: I hope to gain a better understanding of how government works and how as a teen I can play a role and help others my age to better have a voice. I feel like as youth we are often overlooked and often adults don't hear or want to hear what we think. To have a platform where we can be understood and have our opinions heard would be truly a life changing opportunity.</p> <p>Extracurricular: I have been a Girl Scout since I was in kindergarten and this has given me the opportunity to do a tremendous amount of community service and be involved in a wide variety of projects. I have completed both my bronze and silver award through scouting with major sustainability projects focused on cancer patients and our elderly and Alzheimer's community. Besides scouting I am involved</p>

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<p>8/23/2023</p> <p>Interviewed 3/18/2025</p>	<p>Mohanty, Naitik</p>	<p>Mesquite</p>	<p>Graduation: 2026 / Sandra Day O'Connor / Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interest: I am deeply interested in serving on the Youth Advisory Board to contribute my perspectives and ideas towards initiatives that positively impact young individuals. Through this experience, I hope to gain valuable insights into community engagement, leadership development, and the creation of meaningful opportunities for youth. I'm excited to collaborate with like-minded peers, learn from their diverse experiences, and collectively work towards driving positive change for our generation.</p> <p>Extracurricular: I am the founder of multiple non profits: "The HydroClean Foundation" and "Arizona Science Association ". I am also the treasurer of a non profit: "ENPO (Environmental Non-profit Organization)". In school I have founded a National Technical Honor Society chapter and I am currently serving as president as well as founding the Red Cross Club (we organize volunteering opportunities in the name of the Red Cross) ; I am currently also serving as president for this club. I also have a huge interest in policy making (I was in the Model UN club at school; previously winning multiple awards). I am generally up to date with current day events and societal flows.</p> <p>Qualities: As a potential Youth Advisory Board member, I would bring a combination of passion, creativity, and dedication to the table. My ability to think critically and offer innovative solutions would enable me to contribute fresh perspectives to the board's discussions. With strong communication skills, I would facilitate effective collaboration and ensure that diverse voices are heard and valued. Additionally, my enthusiasm for community engagement and commitment to making a difference would motivate me to actively participate in projects and initiatives aimed at empowering and supporting young individuals.</p> <p>Meaning of Civic Engagement: Civic engagement, to me, means the active participation of individuals in shaping the social, political, and cultural landscape of their community as a whole. It goes beyond simply being a member of a community; it involves taking responsibility for the collective well-being, growth, and progress of that community. Civic engagement encompasses activities such as voting in elections, advocating for social issues, volunteering for local initiatives, attending public meetings, and collaborating with fellow community members to effect positive change. It reflects a sense of duty, a desire to contribute, and a belief in the power of collective action to create a more just, inclusive, and vibrant society for everyone.</p>

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<p>9/26/2023</p> <p>Interviewed 3/26/2024</p>	<p>Atkinson, Patrick</p>	<p>Mesquite</p>	<p>Graduation: 2029 / Vistancia Elementary / Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interest: There are many reasons why I would like to be considered for a position on the Youth Advisory Board. I am trying to do everything I can to set myself up for success in the future. Even though I am only in 7th grade, I believe now is the time for me to start working hard and building my resume. I believe that serving on the Youth Advisory Board will help me gain many valuable experiences for my personal growth and development. One thing I would like to develop is my leadership skills. Serving on the board would provide me opportunities to develop my leadership and teamwork skills. I can get experience with collaborating with my peers, practice my communications skills, and hopefully take on leadership roles within the group. I would also like to develop my problem solving skills. Being on the board will expose me to real-world issues and then I will have the chance to brainstorm solutions and make recommendations. I think this will help me develop good critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Another reason why I would like to be on the Youth Advisory Board is because it would be a good way to serve my community. I was born and raised in the City of Peoria and so was my mom! Being a member of the board would allow me to actively contribute to my community and learn about how my local government works. It would also allow me the opportunity to give input on important issues impacting the youth in our city. Learning how to be an advocate for things that are important to me will help me become a good leader and servant to the youth in our city that I would represent.</p> <p>Extracurricular: For the last 3 years, I have been on a youth tackle football team through the NYS league. I play for the Jr. Liberty Lions. The last 2 season I was chosen to be our team captain by my coaches and teammates. I was picked for this position because my coaches said I have a hard work ethic, I am responsible, and I am a positive influence on my peers. Another thing I am passionate about is serving at my church CCV. I have served in the pre-school and kindergarten classrooms for a few years. My role in serving is to help read the bible story and verse of the week and to help the children do their craft and games. As soon as football season is over, I plan on serving in the 5th and 6th grades where I hope to lead the worship time on stage. At my school Vistancia Elementary, I was just selected to be in the National Junior Honor Society as well as the student council. I am very excited to be a part of both of these organizations. They both will involve working with my peers to collaborate and understand different perspectives so we can achieve common goals. I think that being captain of my football team, serving at my church, and being part of NJHS and student council all provide me with leadership experience that is applicable to being a member of the Youth Advisory Board.</p> <p>Qualities: I am a hard worker and I am very committed and responsible. I have never missed a football practice and have received attendance awards every year in school since kindergarten. If selected for the Youth Advisory Board, I will be at every meeting and event, both on time and ready to serve. I am also kind and compassionate. I believe in treating others with respect and will always stand up for people that are being bullied or picked on. I have a good work ethic, I have empathy for others, and I always strive to put others needs above my own. One thing that has helped me develop these skills is my special needs brother Ali. My family adopted him from Tajikistan 7 years ago. Although he is older than me, he mentally is only about 2 years old. He has cerebral palsy and epilepsy. I help my parents care for him every day and it is a lot of work, but I am always happy to help my brother and parents. I help with feeding Ali, changing his diapers, giving him baths, getting him in and out of his wheelchair, and making sure he is always comfortable. When he has seizures, I help time them on my phone and then help by sitting with him and giving him comfort once his seizure is over. If selected for the Youth Advisory Board, I would like to give my insights on how we can include kids with special needs at youth events and activities. I believe all of these skills will make me a valuable addition to the Youth Advisory Board.</p> <p>Meaning of civic engagement: Civic engagement to me means being an active participant in my community. Volunteering my time, attending community meetings and events, learning how my local government works, and advocating for causes that are important to me are all ways that I can show civic engagement. Being a member of the Youth Advisory Board would allow me to do all of these things.</p>
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10/08/2023	Sharma, Arnav	Mesquite	<p>Graduation: 2029 / Lake Pleasant Elementary School / Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interest: To Gain Experience, take strategic decisions, to serve the community and do well for myself as I grow.</p> <p>Extracurricular: Represented Lake Pleasant School at Odyssey of mind Competition at Michigan in May'2023; Volunteering in NJHS activities; Playing multiple sports that includes, Soccer, badminton and Tennis</p> <p>Qualities: Be focused, Grit, Attention to details, work as a team, Collaboration and others</p> <p>Meaning of Civic Engagement: Not answered</p>
12/06/2023	Andersen, Layla	Mesquite	<p>Graduation: 2028 / Vistancia Elementary / Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interest: I am interested in the Youth Advisory Board because I want to take action in my local government. I hope to gain a better understanding of government and how young people can play a role in the development of schools, cities, and communities alike.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: I am a representative in both the National Junior Honors Society and the student council. While in high school, I hope to continue student council and National Honors Society while also joining Volunteering clubs and Unified sports clubs to better connect with my community.</p> <p>Qualities: I am responsible, organized, and hard-working. I work great with others and I love to speak to people about what I am most passionate about.</p> <p>Meaning of Civic Engagement: To me, civic engagement does not mean sitting in a social studies classroom learning about government and doing worksheets, though this can be helpful, civic engagement is the ability to take the information you are learning in class and apply it to real-life skills. One example of this is helping the community plant flowers. You would not only be volunteering to help make your community a better place, but you are doing something about that problem. Civic engagement can even convince someone to be interested in being a part of their local government and joining programs like YAB.</p>
12/10/2023	Joshi, Ishanvi	Palo Verde	<p>Graduation: 2026 / BASIS Peoria / Affiliation: I don't know any employees working at the City of Peoria, but I do know a member of YAB, her name is Ana Shrivastava.</p> <p>Interest: I am interested in this program because I want to know how the Peoria Council works. I hope to gain experience how the Peoria Council works and get to know some of the council members. E</p> <p>xtracurricular: SVO-Student volunteer organization where we volunteer at different such as desert tables to farms, or St. Mary donations food drive, we also decorated lunch bags with motivation quotes for the needy, FHLLA-Future leaders of America, TA-teacher's assistance for Spanish teacher at my school, applying for west mec veterinary science program, part of animal equality nonprofit organization helping animals live a better and cruel free live, passed my civics exam, I have taken the AP Government and Politics exam, I love dogs, I love to be creative, I have auditioned for the speech and debate team at my school, I am part of the peer mentoring program at my school, role: mentor, I am part of NSHSS-National Society of High School Scholars, I also got an invitation to attend the NSLC-National Studnet Leadership Conference this coming summer.</p> <p>Qualities: Qualities I would bring to the Youth Advisory Board: I have passed my civics exam giving me more credibility to join this great program, I have taken AP Government and Politics exam providing with the all the knowledge I would need to understand how the US government and politics work, I am passionate about the things that I love to do, specifically animals, equality. I try to volunteer as much as I can and give back to my community. Moreover, my artistic abilities allow me to be creative, enabling me to come with way to unique ideas and solutions to different problems in our community, as well as come up ways to improve my community.</p> <p>Meaning of civic engagement: In my eyes, to be civically engaged is to be actively involved in the betterment of the community. In my mission of providing everyone with an equal and fair environment, I try to be civically engaged by participating in extracurriculars that better my community, engaging in the issues such as the extreme animal abuse happening all around us. I have been actively working to improve this issue by trying to spread awareness of how animal abuse happens when no veterinary care is provided to severely injured or dying animals, or about the</p>

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			<p>unethical practices used when slaughtering animals. In order to be able to be civically engaged, one must be aware of the problems and state of their community. With my creativity and artistic way of finding unique solutions to many problems, not only can I be civically engaged, but I can also enable my community to be engaged with the issues that are happening around us, allowing for everybody as a community to better society.</p>
12/18/2023	Stokes, Ashlynn	Mesquite	<p>Graduation: 2028 / Vistancia Elementary / Affiliation: No Interest: I am interested in the Youth Advisory Board because I can put it on my college resume and I want to make a difference in our community and help out around it. Extracurricular: None Qualities: I am hardworking, fun, creative, and am good at talking to people. Meaning of Civic Engagement: It means helping out in your community knowing you won't get anything out of it.</p>
01/31/2024	Kight, Roston	Palo Verde	<p>Graduation: 2028 / Skyview / Affiliation: No Interest: I am interested in joining YAB because I would like to get to know like minded youth and be a part of the community. Extracurriculars: I am currently in my school's choir, and I really like it. I would like to add more hobbies and interests. Qualities: I am a person who has good ideas, who is smart, and can be a positive influence on others. I want to help and learn new skills I can use in the real world. Meaning of Civic Engagement: To me it means engaging in the community and being helpful, impactful, and enthusiastic.</p>
2/7/2024	Fontanez, Adaya	Pine	<p>Graduation: 2027 / Peoria High School / Affiliation: No Interest: I'm interested because I want to help out our community and help out and I hope to gain the experience I need to get into politics and government in the world Extracurricular: Newspaper, DECA, Helping out at food donations Qualities: I would bring teamwork, a passion to bring change, and strong communication skills Meaning of civic engagement: Civic engagement means working to make an important change in the lives of people in the community</p>
2/25/2024	Kumari, Anisha	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2029 / BASIS Peoria / Affiliation: No Interest: The reason I want to be a member of the Youth Advisory Board is because I want to gain an opportunity to learn the value of collaboration, leadership, and working with other fellow members to support this organization. I want to have a positive impact on the community and let young people express their opinions and their values. Extracurriculars: For extracurricular activities, my interest comes to academic clubs such as STEM fields, language clubs, debate teams, or academic competitions. These activities help me engage and learn better knowledge in the leadership role. Furthermore, I would also like to start a small business, organize fundraising events, or developing entrepreneurial initiatives within my community. Qualities: One of the qualities I would bring to Youth advisory board so that it can help make a positive impact on my community is creativity. This ability would help innovative ideas, propose solutions, and take provident steps to address issues affecting young people and find a solution. Through every problem, I will maintain resilience and navigate the challenges while valuing other's opinion. I am willing to show commitment through my work and open for feedback, and willing to adapt and grow personally and professionally through my Youth Advisory Board experience. Meaning of Civic Engagement: In my opinion, civic engagement means to be a responsible member in the community or society, typically with the goal of promoting the public good by contributing to the common welfare and influencing decisions that helps improve the growth in a community. To ensure a good community, many wide ranged activities are held for where each individual would collaborate and share their ideas and develop new interests.</p>

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2/29/2024	Mark, Riley	Acacia	<p>Graduation: 2029 / Sun Valley Elementary / Affiliation: No</p> <p>Affiliation: I am a niece to the president of the Peoria Unified School District board</p> <p>Interest: I am interested in joining because i love to volunteer for community events and would love to help others. I hope to gain a lot of experience working with others</p> <p>Extracurricular: I am in AVID as well as apart of my Student Council, and i am always open to more extracurricular classes/activities. Qualities: I am a responsible, disciplined person who is willing to step up to any task needed. I will always to try to participate in any activity. Meaning of Civic Engagement: Civic engagement means to me, helping others around you simply because there is a problem or to just tend to concerns.</p>
3/9/2024	Mohapatra, Shreyanshi	Willow	<p>Graduation Date: 2029 / BASIS Peoria / Affiliation: Yes, a close family friend of mine is currently serving as a Youth Advisory Board member.</p> <p>Interest: I am interested in serving on the Youth Advisory Board because as a student it is important to me that other students in the Peoria community are receiving the resources regarding their concerns for the living quality of our society. I am a strong advocate for the youth and it is vital for youth to comprehend the potential they hold to make change through local government. As a member of the Board, I would like for students to be civically engaged in order for them to become more educated on youth involvement in local government and how the City of Peoria functions. Additionally, I am quite familiar with the resources our city provides,yet I would like to be more closely affiliated with Peoria to be able to serve as a direct barrier between my peers at school and a youth representative. What I hope to gain while serving on the Youth Advisory Board are the skills to be able to serve as a collaborative leader in the Peoria community. Addressing the concerns of the youth requires not only my passion, but the input of youth who care deeply about these issues as I do. I understand serving as a member of the Youth Advisory Board will allow me the opportunity to build on my collaboration skills as I would work with other youth. To serve as a leader in my community, I need to understand the perspective of all my team members through collaboration and strong work ethic.</p> <p>Extracurricular: I am a member of National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) in my middle school. Members engage in community service opportunities such as volunteering at an animal shelter and hosting a book drive for a charity. The purpose of NJHS is to elevate a students ability to serve as a leader in their school and to build character as a youth citizen through service and outreach. I have heavily improved on these aspects of NJHS since I joined in November of 2023 particularly in leadership. This is because in order to participate in service opportunities it is vital that members initiate their own projects. Additionally, my family and I are members of Odia Association of Arizona and growing up I collaborated with several other members of this association to assist in preparing for events. Having said this, I worked with other kids my age which really allowed me to understand their strong suits and my own in order to equally divide our work.</p>
3/14/2024 Interviewed 4/23/2024	Manuel, Felicia	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2027 / Mountain Ridge High School / Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interest: 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>Extracurriculars: 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</p>

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			<p>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 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>Qualities: 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>Meaning of Civic Engagement: 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>
3/16/2024	Schuetz, Olivia	Palo Verde	<p>Graduation Date: 2026 / Centennial High School / Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interest: I am interested in getting more real-life experience and engaging more in the community. I want to be able to meet new people and learn about their experiences. I hope to better my communication skills and become more involved than I've ever been.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: Centennial Peer Counseling: helped other high school students balance their school, work, and social lives; Centennial Newspaper: write articles on topics of interest, mostly that concern teens that read them like autism awareness, the struggles within honors/ap classes, etc. Interests: neurodivergence advocacy. although I don't have a consistent outlet for this, as a member of the neurodivergent myself, I want to be able to help people who can't advocate for themselves</p>

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<p>3/27/2024</p> <p>Interviewed 3/18/2025</p>	<p>Singh, Naureen</p>	<p>Graduation: 2027 / Mountain Ridge High School / Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interest: I am interested in serving on the Youth Advisory Board as I feel that it is important for the youth to contribute equally in community building, finding solutions to the common community problems and positively influencing the lives of others. I hope by being part of the Youth Advisory Board, I will gain valuable experience in the policy making process and enhance my skills in collaboration, leadership, decision-making and communication.</p> <p>Extracurricular: During the past few years, I have contributed to the below community services:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Member of school's Dean team: During 8th grade, I served as a member on the Dean's team, that consisted of 15 members. The objective of this team was to discuss and try to find potential solutions to the problems faced by the students, like setting up a school library. We organized events like the middle school dance and a tea party with snacks to raise funds for our school. Due to the work done by Dean's team and its impact on the school, it was eventually converted into a Youth Council. 2. Peer Tutoring: During 7th grade, I peer-tutored for both Math and English subjects at my school, once a week through out the year. As part of this, I helped my peers to understand certain subject topics and prepare for their upcoming tests by creating some practice tests for them. 3. Teaching Assistant: During 8th grade, I also assisted the 7th grade Math teacher for 6 months in helping her students during office hours (student support). This included reviewing the study guide with them, helping them prepare for tests, and testing them on specific subject topics they were struggling with. 4. Summer School: During 2023 summer break, I spent 66 hours helping younger students at my school complete their summer packets along with preparing practice tests and answer keys for them to review, so that they are well prepared to retake their tests. I helped them in multiple subjects including Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Math and English. <p>Qualities: The three major qualities I would bring as Youth Advisory Board member are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Flexibility: I feel comfortable and can work very well in both a team setting, as well as in individual capacity. This helps me change according to the required circumstances. 2. Empathy: I strongly believe that being empathetic is a very important trait for being in public service. Since everyone has a different story and past, it is not fair to judge anyone based on that. Being empathetic helps solve conflicts and makes one considerate towards others. 3. Dedication: Once I makeup my mind towards anything I am completely dedicate to it. For instance, I have been playing flute as a part of my school band since 5th grade and I have plans to continue it through out my high school. <p>Meaning of Civic Engagement: Civic engagement means getting involved with public relations to help build a stronger and progressive community. It involves many things, such as collaborating to find solutions to common problems, regularly communicating to keep the community members informed about public affairs, and providing common services.</p>

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4/1/2024	Reddy, Aashrith	Willow	<p>Graduation Date: 2027 / Mountain Ridge High School / Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interests: I've learned about the opportunity recently, and I thought it would be an excellent opportunity. I really appreciate everything my community does for me and all the resources available to its residents as well. I thought it would be a nice way to give back as I'm not doing much currently. Additionally, I also think it would be enlightening to experience serving my community on a high scale. I'll be provided with an opportunity to serve and to learn which I truly believe is exciting.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: National Junior Honor Society member in middle school; Planning to apply for National Honor Society in High school; Applied for the PVSA Gold Volunteering award; Volunteering at Honor Health over the summer; Member of the friends of phoenix public library organization; Hobbies include playing sports (tennis, soccer, basketball), and volunteering; International DECA member; FBLA member; Leadership, ability to take initiative, driven, and able to solve problems with ease; Volunteer in free time; Volunteered for many cultural events across the valley</p> <p>Qualities: I would bring efficiency and display work ethic. I believe in accountability, and being a member of this board would mean that I am in a way accountable for a part of the well being of many citizens of Peoria. It is imperative that I demonstrate responsibility and take the accountability for my actions and to never be neglectful. These are traits that I exhibit on a daily basis, wherever I may be. Also, as a member I must work to find solutions to problems as well as advocate for them to be resolved. The faster a solution is found the faster it can be implemented and we can move on to bettering the city by tackling other challenges. This means efficiency is of utmost importance, and I am an efficient person who doesn't like wasting time. I always try to find the best solutions to different challenges while also keeping track of time as well.</p> <p>Meaning of Civic Engagement: For me civic engagement is a duty of every resident. I believe that since everyone benefits of off the community, that they should dedicate at least some of their time to help maintain and better it. That is why I would like to serve on the Youth Advisory Board. I know that I am capable of doing much more for my community and its residents, and working with other like minded individuals to collectively benefit the lives of many sounds truly amazing.</p>
6/5/2024	Bhakta, Ayan	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2026/ Mountain Ridge High School/ Affiliation: Yes related to Employee</p> <p>Interests: My interest in serving on the YAB stems from my desire for working hard towards empowering the youth and making sure that they have a say. I would like to use the YAB platform to gain experience in advocating for the rights of youth, promoting inclusivity, and providing possible solutions to issues such as mental health awareness and environmental sustainability. It excites me because I'm looking forward to meeting people from different backgrounds and learning from them ways to come up with great strategies that will help improve the lives of young people. Being a part of the YAB will make me develop skills like leadership, communication, and problem-solving. I am ultimately driven by a commitment to creating more equitable environments for all youth. YAB is a perfect place for me to bring my ideas and contribute to the effort in giving strength to the voices of youth and their needs.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: 1. FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America): Currently serve as the President for my school that has the most members in the state. I organize weekly meetings, conduct chapter registration and prep 100+ members for competition. I believe this level of leadership showcases why I would be a strong applicant for the YAB.</p> <p>2. CTE (Career and Technical Education) Ambassador: I represent my schools biomedical sciences program at various events and workshops to instruct other students the benefits of joining the biomedical sciences program. I work with other ambassadors from different programs in order to fulfill our schools goals.</p> <p>3. HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America): Serve as the Director of Community Service for my school; organize health-related community service and volunteering opportunities for 50+ members. I highly value community service as does the YAB.</p>

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7/16/2024	Pandit, Eshaan	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2028/ Mountain Ridge High School/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interests: I am interested in joining the youth advisory board for many reasons. Throughout my academic life, I have always wondered, what it would mean to bring good change in the world. I have always wondered if good actions and intentions are the only things that are required to make the world a better place. I have always wanted to be a part of a community, one that makes the world a better place. Being a part of the Peoria Youth Advisory Board will bring me one step closer to my goal - bringing good change in the world, starting with the city I live in. That being said, I wish to gain the following skills. Firstly, I want to become better at public speaking and meet like-minded people who can help make a good difference in the world. I hope to gain new skills and knowledge in leadership. Looking at my previous experience, being a part of SEVA and Model UN has given me a better perspective on life and has given me a chance to understand the needs of the community, and how it works. I have always taken a deep and keen interest in 'problem-solving' and hence, being a part of the youth advisory board will give me a chance to exercise that skill. I believe, being a part of the SEVA community and the Model UN has shown me how to not only understand problems, and view them from a global perspective, but also give me a chance to solve them. I want to be able to be a better person by being available to the needs of the community, which is why, a position on the Youth Advisory Board will help me.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: In school, I am a part of the Model UN club in which I have to find solutions to problems for geopolitical and international relations, using strategic, problem-solving, and negotiating skills, which I can apply here in solving problems for the community. I am also currently a member of the Sewa lead group in which I participate in leadership activities and volunteer through Sewa to help the community around Phoenix. The activities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. helping to make the city beautiful and clean (includes cleaning streets or buildings) 2. helping pack food for homeless people (St. Mary's) 3. help feed starving children internationally (FMSC) <p>Civic Engagement: To me, civic engagement means that the community members come together to solve the problems faced by people of the community. It can include volunteering activities that help the community such as cleaning parks, or streets. Another activity may be to advocate in schools to stop the use of drugs or harmful substances.</p>
7/24/2024	Simha, Arnab	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2027/BASIS Peoria/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interests: Making a positive impact and contributing to the future development of our community is why I'm interested in joining the Youth Advisory Board. I have a unique history as a first-generation immigrant in high school, so I can bring new ideas and perspectives to the board. A goal of mine is to increase voter turnout in the youth, to do this, we need to educate the youth about voting. By serving, I will be able to hone my leadership abilities, widen my viewpoint on civic engagement, and collaborate with peers and leaders to address issues that matter to the city's youth. This change will enable me to actively participate and acquire skills that will benefit my advancement as well as the advancement of our community.</p>

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8/5/2024	Thogati, Vaishnavi	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2026/ Basis Peoria/ Affiliation: I am good friends with a member of the Youth Advisory Board (who was the one who advised me to join the YAB due to my interest in politics and leadership.</p> <p>Interests: I am interested in the YAB because I wish to gain some experience in the field of politics before I may choose to pursue that path in my near future. I hope to serve the youth and contribute to the substantial change in how my generation and those to come are perceived and heard in the government.</p> <p>Extracurricular:</p> <p>Qualities: As a youth Advisory Board Member, I would bring creativity, Charisma, empathy, and confidence.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: To me, civic engagement means working with people, and actively bridging the gap between the political world and the average citizen. I believe most political positions are often misunderstood as making decisions for people, but as someone who so passionately has worked in my student government for the past year, I realized that there is more beauty in showing the constituents you are there for them, to help them and be there for them as if you were their megaphone, for the greater good.</p> <p>But I believe the true beauty in civic engagement is anyone can be a leader, as long as you work hard and believe in your cause.</p> <p>As an individual or as a group, everyone can lead and make their communities if not a lot, at least a little better, which is what</p> <p>Civic Engagement: To make change, regardless of who you are, by actively participating in your community in the name of doing good.</p>

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8/10/2024	Singhal, Neal	Willow	<p>Graduation:2028/ Liberty High School/ Affiliation: None</p> <p>Interests: I want to join the Youth Advisory Board to make a difference in my community, more specifically to give younger kids a voice. I hope to gain valuable life skills like leadership and problem-solving. I want to make the City of Peoria an outstanding place to be, while also giving people the opportunity to have fun and learn.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: The making and packaging of food and hygiene products such as sandwiches, water, hand sanitizer, clothes, and blankets. The city and state governments fascinate me because of the complexity of managing multiple tasks, and city governments run smoothly with each other. Economics and money managing also interest me.</p> <p>Qualities: I am perseverant, empathetic, good listener and have ability to reciprocate in meaningful way. Once a subject is talked about I am capable of grasping and storing the knowledge. Patience is one of my key ability and all skills helps me to help others.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: Civic engagement, for me, means to address and understand a problem or concern brought out by the public. Then, work to find a reasonable solution to resolve the problem.</p>
8/18/2024	Chinni, Abhi	Ironwood	<p>Graduation:2026/ BASIS Peoria/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interests: I want to be a member of the Youth Advisory Board because I want to help my community and because young people must be heard and involved in development of policies and programs concerning them. I want to gain useful experiences in leadership, the possibility to work with people my age, and the ability to be able to contribute to projects that would better the community. Membership on the board will also afford me a chance to acquire communication and problem solving skills so as to bring about positive change.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: The state of Arizona is one that is highly diverse and full of people with all sorts of cultural backgrounds. That is why I am a member of the Spanish honors society at my school. Not just to learn the language of Spanish but to bring awareness to the hispanic community. I have advocated to many lower class man at my school to join the SHH for this very reason. To bring change through language is one of my main goal. I have also volunteered at St. Mary's food bank for many hours because the feeling of giving is one that. I cherish so deeply. I am also a certified Volunteer for the Arizona Humane society. My passion for animals gave the movie to join such organization because i value animal safety and i would like bring more awareness to this issue through the YAB. I also love basketball and play for the school team.</p> <p>Qualities: As a Youth Advisory Board member, I'd bring a commitment to diversity, advocacy, and service. My position in the Spanish Honors Society reflects my passion to bring cultural awareness, while my volunteer work at St. Mary's Food Bank and the Arizona Humane Society shows my passion for helping others, humans and animals alike. Playing basketball has taught me the value of teamwork, which I'd apply to group projects.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: For me, civic engagement is the personal involvement in the taking care of the community and contributing to its improvements. Civic engagement is a way of staying informed, sharing ones views and taking action on something one feels is important in their own community for the benefit of others and one self. It's the responsibility and privilege of working together to build a better, more inclusive society.</p>
9/7/2024	Kondapalli, Saanvi	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2028/ Mountain Ridge High School/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interests: I always look for an opportunity to give back to our society and believe this program is a great opportunity for me to learn on challenges and issues youth are facing today. Through this opportunity, I want to explore on how I can contribute in addressing these issues. I also believe that this program will give me an opportunity to grow my inter personal skills by interacting with different people and also lay as a foundation to become a leader in future.</p> <p>Extrarriculars: My interest is to provide mental health awareness to youth Coach on equality Provide financial literacy</p>

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			<p>Create awareness on environmental sustainability</p> <p>Qualities: Influencer Motivator Kindness</p> <p>Civic Engagement: I feel it is my responsibility and feel pride in contributing to the betterment of society</p>
<p>9/15/2024</p> <p>Interviewed 3/18/2025</p>	<p>Jain, Arv</p>	<p>Ironwood</p>	<p>Graduation: 2026/ BASIS Peoria/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interests: I wish to be a part of the youth advisory board to gain insight into the inner workings of our local government and how to make effective policies. I have always been interested in the national government and how it helps the country, and so I would like to be part of my local government in any way I can to help my community</p> <p>Extracurriculars: Part of the NJHS during 8th Grade Participated in Model UN and attended 3 conferences throughout 9th grade, winning Honorable Mention best Delegate at NovaMUN Part of the Red Cross club as of September 2024 Work for the BASIS Bugle as of September 2024 Active community service towards Jain Center of Greater Phoenix</p> <p>Qualities: Having lived in several areas across the country, such as Texas and Virginia, I blend my multitude of experiences into one person and know what could work well for the community and what doesn't work for the community. My membership in the National Junior Honor Society also allowed me to have first-hand engagement with the community and helped me build a positive attitude towards volunteering and community service.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: Civic engagement to me means listening to the needs of your community and acting on those needs in whatever way possible. Instead of burdening a few people with holding up the community, everyone takes a little responsibility in making their community better. Civic engagement means interacting with your community to find their needs, and not to focus on only one part of your community but give attention to everyone in it.</p>
<p>10/1/2024</p>	<p>Hernandez, Aubrey</p>	<p>Mesquite</p>	<p>Graduation: 2028/ Sunrise Mountain High School/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interest: I am interested in youth government because I was on my student council for junior high and I was told by my student council advisor that this would be A great opportunity for me while at youth government day and seeing something that I'd enjoy being apart of. While also I have always been interested in government and hoping to be apart of politics in the future and I enjoy making differences in my community.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: For my 7th and 8th grade year I was apart of student council as an officer both years secretary then school culture advocate. Although I mainly worked only on my school projects I want to expand what I am working on and helping with. As my schools 23-24 school culture advocate I was always making forms to hear feedback from students taking their opinions and some ideas and presenting them to my council.</p> <p>Qualities: I would be A reliable member, I'm great with big groups and group projects specifically and I've always been eager to give my ideas, take opinions from others and help as much as I while wanting to make A positive impact on everything that I do.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: To me being engaged in civics is being A active member contributing towards everything you do, address concerns with members and community and making A good impact in your community. And one specific one for me is enjoy everything you do.</p>
<p>10/17/2024</p>	<p>Currey, Gabriel</p>	<p>Palo Verde</p>	<p>Graduation: 2029/ Sky View Elementary/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interests: My main goal is to help all that I possible can because it's a good thing to do.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: Wii Bowling, four square</p> <p>Qualities: I feel I am good at solving problems and puzzles I am also good at respecting others opinions interactions with others</p> <p>Civic Engagement: Putting good programs in place for other youth to enjoy.</p>

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10/22/2024	Ahmad, Uwais	Ironwood	<p>Graduation: 2026/ ASU Prep/ Affiliation: No Interest: I'm interested in the board because I wanna know what's going on in my community and help out as much as I can. Extracurriculars: I work at taco bell 35 hours a week, I play tennis, wrestle, and play football too Qualities: I'm smart, responsible, and also very determined. Civic Engagement: Civic engagement is your involvement in civic duties.</p>
12/28/2024	Banerjee, Riya	Mesquite	<p>Graduation: 2027/ BASIS Peoria/ Affiliation: No Interest: Given the honor of serving on the Youth Advisory Board, I hope to gain real-world experience in a working environment. I want to attain a stronger bond with my community. I am interested in collaborating with others to make Peoria an eventful, cheery place. I hope to carry on what the wonderful board has already accomplished while also taking steps to improve our society further. Extracurriculars: I actively participate in Speech and Debate which has provided me with essential public speaking skills, enhancing my confidence. I have participated in Model United Nations which has allowed me to understand how to collaborate with others. I enjoy engaging in service activities for my communities (associating with non-profit organizations). In my free time, I enjoy physical activities such as swimming and biking (these interests have provided me with opportunities to work collectively with a team). Qualities: I am a flexible person when it comes to the tasks I am given. I enjoy collaborating with others. I have good public speaking skills and believe advocacy is key when trying to spread awareness in society. I have leadership experience through my organization and representation skills. I am a collected person when it comes to organizing events. I am personable and I believe I can relate to the youth group of Peoria. I believe I can bring essential, applicable qualities if given the chance to be a part of the Youth Advisory Board. Civic Engagement: Civic engagement to me means making a difference in society. It means leaving your mark that shows everyone that you care and that you can be a leader who successfully communicates with the people. To me, it means gaining the people's trust by addressing the issues they find concerning. It is a great way to show that you can and are a leader and that you can make an impact in society by responding to the necessary needs of the people.</p>
1/7/2025 Interviewed 3/18/2025	AlDuaimy, Lara	Acacia	<p>Graduation: 2028/AAEC Paradise Valley/ Affiliation: No Interest: I'm interested in the Youth Advisory Board because it's a great opportunity to help my community and gain helpful skills. This opportunity would help me improve my leadership skills, decision-making, and teamwork. It also would help me find friends with similar interests as me and we can all work together to create a positive impact in our community. It shows that even the youth can make impactful decisions and advocate for causes that matter to our community. Overall, I hope to make an impact in our community while gaining skills that will benefit me in the future. Extracurricular: I have a passion project that me and my sister created at our local masjid called the Al-Basheer Sisterhood Program (you can find us on Instagram @albasheersisterhood). We get help from our youth leaders to create enjoyable events and advocate for our youth Shi'a community. I also volunteer at my school's food bank. Qualities: Some qualities I would bring as a Youth Advisory Board member is great communication skills. I'm comfortable with respectfully agreeing or denying ideas and projects while also listening to others. I try to see both sides and compromise which helps with decision making. I'm also open to constructive criticism. I like to improve and see what areas I need to work on to better myself and our community. I also have a lot of passion for helping others. I want to see myself and my future board members make a positive impact on our community. Civic Engagement: Civic engagement to me is actively being part of the community and trying to address issues and fix them. It means to advocate and voice our community's opinions while taking action that benefits others. It's to form a connection with our people so they can deem us as trustworthy and know they're safe in our hands. To me, it's all about using your opportunity and skills to make a difference and shape our community for the better.</p>

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1/11/2025	Dara, Sahasra	Mesquite	<p>Graduation: 2028 / Mountain Ridge High School / Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interests: I am interested in joining the Youth Advisory Board because I want to make a positive impact in my community and get young people involved in important decisions. I want to help create positive changes that can help everyone, and I think this is a great way to get involved. I hope to gain presentation skills, learn more about how local government works, and grow as a person by working with other motivated people who want to make an impact.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: I have volunteered at the Rio vista community center learning a lot about what people need and expect. I was also part of a student volunteer organization(SVO) where we had projects to improve the community. We created a food drive and raised money for a charity organization and many more.</p> <p>Qualities: As a Youth Advisory Board member, I hope to bring responsibility, passion for positive change, and a commitment to teamwork. I take my commitments seriously, whether it's volunteering at Saint Vincents or being involved in school projects, and I always follow through on what I promise to do. I'm deeply passionate about making a difference and creating positive change in my community, this helps me to work hard and stay motivated.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: As a Youth Advisory Board member, I hope to bring responsibility, passion for positive change, and a commitment to teamwork. I take my commitments seriously, whether it's volunteering at Saint Vincents or being involved in school projects, and I always follow through on what I promise to do. I'm deeply passionate about making a difference and creating positive change in my community, this helps me to work hard and stay motivated.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: To me, Civic engagement means being actively involved in my community and using my voice and actions to make a positive difference.</p>
1/25/2025	Gon, Ayushi	Ironwood	<p>Graduation: 2028/ BASIS Peoria/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interests: I am interested in serving on the Youth Advisory Board because I believe young people like me can do little things to make a positive impact on their surroundings and communities and make this world a better place. I hope to not only gain valuable leadership and communication skills but also to help better the community.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: An appointment to the Youth Advisory Board should be a person with volunteer hours dedicated to service, critical thinking skills, and the ability to empathize with all walks of life.</p> <p>Qualities: As a Youth Advisory Board member, I would bring new perspectives, a unique skill set, open-mindedness, and a new voice.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: For me, civic engagement is about participating in the growth of the community and taking responsibility for the improving of the society.</p>
2/9/2025	Malaviya, Aavani	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2027/ BASIS Peoria/ Affiliation: Ana Shrivastava, a friend of mine who is on the Youth Advisory Board, frequently tells me about her interesting and fun experiences on the board. I began to become more interested and found ways to foster my growing passion through hearing her stories about her time on the board. Her experiences have motivated me to apply and hopefully become part of something that makes a positive impact on my community.</p> <p>Interest: am interested in joining the youth advisory board of Peoria because I want to learn firsthand how our cities operate and engage in my community, acting as a representative for the youth all over Peoria. I want to understand how the Peoria government keeps me and my friends' neighborhood clean, safe, and overall enjoyable. I'm also curious about how some of my favorite places, like Paloma Park, are created and maintained. I hope to know more about how these systems work and develop the skills to help improve the community, whether it's big or small projects. I am particularly interested in organizing initiatives like neighborhood cleanups, book or clothing drives, and recycling programs, just to name a few. Based on my own research and what I've heard from friends, the youth advisory board sounds like a great opportunity to improve the city I love while learning and growing alongside people who share the same passion.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: Last summer, I joined a nonprofit organization called the San Antonio Book Pool and was honored to be named Chapter President of the Peoria</p>

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		<p>branch. The nonprofit is devoted to promoting education in underprivileged communities by donating books. In this position, I researched and coordinated book contributions to a variety of locations, such as adoption facilities, women's shelters, and local schools. This experience not only allowed me to contribute to my community with over 200 books donated but also gave me an insight into valuable leadership skills. Additionally, I was elected President of the Youth Policy Association (YPA) at my school. YPA is a club that aims to educate and engage students in current events, such as the 2024 election, while also building relationships with the community's leaders. The club has hosted local leaders like the current mayor, Jason Beck; former Congresswoman Debbie Lesko; and former Mayor Cathay Clarlat, where students were able to learn about their work and the impact of public service. Also, I am an active member of several various clubs at my school, including Mock Trial, the Red Cross, and the National Chinese Honor Society. When I'm not occupied with school or extracurricular activities, I usually unwind by crocheting, diving into a mystery novel, or just vibing to some music.</p> <p>Qualities: As a Youth Advisory Board member, I would offer my organizational abilities, ability to connect with others, and genuine desire to make a positive difference in the community I love. My experiences as President of the Youth Policy Association and the San Antonio Book Pool have taught me how to efficiently research, plan, and coordinate events. I'd use these abilities, as well as the relationships I've made through my clubs and groups, to organize volunteer and fundraising activities that benefit the community of Peoria. For example, I've previously arranged a book drive for a local school, and I believe that serving on the Youth Advisory Board would allow me to expand these projects and reach many more individuals in need. Some ideas I'd like to explore are hosting community workshops on topics like youth advocacy, starting mentorship programs, or partnering with local businesses to support youth-focused projects. Additionally, I also understand the importance of keeping an upbeat and collaborative attitude while working in a community. A positive attitude builds trust and teamwork and creates an environment in which everyone feels appreciated and driven to contribute. I believe I can bring a warm and active attitude to the board since I enjoy interacting with others, listening to their ideas, and working with others to find solutions.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: Personally, civic engagement means being involved in your local community and promoting positive change, no matter how big or small. It could be as important as having a leadership position, such as mayor, or as simple as picking up a piece of trash you see on the street. Civic engagement includes being informed, taking advantage of your voice to raise awareness about community issues, and collaborating to find solutions. This allows us to develop a stronger connected community in which everyone can grow and benefit.</p>
<p>2/23/2025</p> <p>Interviewed 3/18/2025</p>	<p>Shirvastava, Zoe</p>	<p>Graduation: 2030/BASIS Peoria/ Affiliation: No, I am not an employee of the City of Peoria, but my sister is currently an acting member of the Peoria Youth Advisory Board. My current involvement with the city has mainly been through community programs, especially initiatives like the Teen Leadership Academy. In this role, I have actively participated in several service projects and events to enhance and improve the community.</p> <p>Interests: I am eager to join the youth Adviaory board because it offers a unique opportunity to serve the community while making a meaningful impact on Peoria's youth. I am passionate about developing initiatives that advocate for youth involvement, empowering young people to have a voice and play an active role in shaping our city. This position will allow me to collaborate with others, unite around common goals, and drive positive change. I am excited to develop key skills such as leadership, communication, and teamwork—essential for personal growth and future opportunities. Through my involvement, I hope to contribute to the city's progress while inspiring and supporting my peers and everyone who comes after us.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: I have consistently taken the initiative to engage in various extracurricular activities, which have allowed me to develop and strengthen my leadership, teamwork, and mentoring skills. These experiences have allowed me to grow personally and make a meaningful impact on my peers and the broader community.</p>

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		<p>As the Treasurer for Jr. Tri-M, I am vital in managing and organizing fundraising efforts to support various school programs. My responsibilities include coordinating events, tracking funds, and ensuring resources are available for initiatives such as the Science Fair. This position taught me the importance of organization, financial responsibility, and collaboration. My involvement extends beyond administrative duties, as I actively support the Science Fair—as a two-time state winner. Using my experience, I mentor students in the Science Fair Club, guiding project development, research methods, and presentation skills. I take the initiative to support their growth by offering feedback, encouraging creative thinking, and helping them navigate challenges throughout the process.</p> <p>My passion for research and discovery is also reflected in my involvement with National History Day (NHD), where I am a two-time state winner. I am deeply motivated by the historical significance of the topics I explore, as each project allows me to dive into critical moments that have shaped our world. Beyond my own work, I actively mentor and support other students participating in NHD. I help them refine their research, develop compelling arguments, and confidently present their findings. By sharing my experiences and insights, I aim to inspire my peers to engage with history meaningfully and succeed in their academic pursuits.</p> <p>For the past five months, I have been an active member of the Teen Leadership Academy (TLA), where I participate in community service projects and work alongside city officials to support events organized by the City of Peoria. This experience has given me a deeper understanding of how local government operates and how youth can significantly shape the community. I take the initiative by contributing ideas, volunteering for projects, and collaborating with other young leaders to address community needs. Through TLA, I have strengthened my communication skills and developed a greater sense of civic responsibility.</p> <p>At BASIS Peoria, I was a dedicated member of the Dean's Team. I worked closely with school administration to improve the learning environment and address student concerns. My role involved offering feedback on school policies, organizing student-led initiatives, and collaborating with peers to enhance the academic experience. This position allowed me to advocate for my fellow students while developing problem-solving skills and the ability to work effectively as part of a team.</p> <p>In addition to these leadership roles, I take the initiative to support my peers through math tutoring. I provide one-on-one assistance to classmates, helping them improve their understanding of complex concepts and build confidence in their abilities. This experience has strengthened my ability to communicate, exercise patience, and adapt my teaching methods to meet individual learning needs. I am passionate about empowering others to succeed and fostering a collaborative learning environment.</p> <p>Through these diverse experiences, I have developed a proactive mindset and a strong commitment to positively impacting others. Each opportunity has allowed me to grow as a leader, work effectively with others, and contribute to improving my school and the community. I am eager to continue using these skills to drive meaningful change and inspire those around me.</p> <p>Qualities: As a member of the Youth Advisory Board, I would bring strong leadership skills, a collaborative spirit, and a commitment to making Peoria a more inclusive and supportive community for all youth. My experience leading teams and organizing events has taught me how to motivate others, communicate effectively, and work toward shared goals. I am dedicated to fostering an environment where members feel valued and empowered to contribute ideas.</p> <p>One of my key priorities is to advocate for initiatives that promote inclusivity and ensure that all young people, regardless of their background, have access to opportunities and feel a sense of belonging. I believe that every voice matters, and I am committed to listening to the diverse perspectives of Peoria's youth and representing their interests on the board. By collaborating with fellow board members, city officials, and community organizations, I aim to implement programs that address the unique needs of our city's youth while encouraging greater community involvement.</p> <p>Through my leadership and advocacy, I will work to make Peoria a place where all young people feel heard, supported, and inspired to shape the city's future. I am</p>
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			<p>eager to use my skills to drive positive change, foster inclusivity, and contribute to our youth programs' continued growth and success.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: To me, civic engagement means actively participating in the community to address issues, improve society, and make a lasting, positive impact. It involves working together to create meaningful change through volunteering, raising awareness, or contributing to important decisions. Civic engagement is about taking responsibility for the community's well-being and using our voices to shape a better future.</p> <p>An essential part of civic engagement is ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to participate, regardless of their background or experiences. By fostering inclusivity, we can bring diverse perspectives to the table, leading to more thoughtful and practical solutions. Youth play a critical role in civic engagement by identifying local challenges, proposing innovative ideas, and advocating for meaningful change. Whether organizing community service projects, supporting those in need, or standing up for important causes, young people can shape the future and strengthen and connect their communities.</p> <p>Civic engagement is not just about addressing problems—it's about working together to create a society where everyone feels heard, valued, and empowered to make a difference.</p>
2/25/2025	Mehra, Avneesh	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2031/ BASIS Peoria/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interests: I am interested in the youth Advisory Board because I want to continue helping my community and make all my fellow students voices heard I wish to gain public speaking skills, have practice leading, and put a smile on many more faces.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: I do many extracurricular activities that are applicable to an appointment on the Youth Advisory Board such as Pickleball. I have come to realize that many students love this sport. I am also a Youth Ambassador for Chicken N Pickle and a Junior Sponsored Athlete at Center Court. I play the Violin, Piano and Bass guitar which can enlighten anyone's day, and am a member of TLA that helps me grow my leadership skills. TLA also allows me more volunteering opportunities that I love. I am also a member of my school's National Juniors Honors Society and Tri- M (Musical Honors Society). I am also a Smile Intern with Project Smile and have done many self-initiated projects, volunteering and charity events such as playing Pickleball with members of Ability 360 (Adaptive sports gym) and more. A common theme that ties all my extra curriculums together is that there is a community/service element to all, which I am very passionate about. Please find further details on my resume.</p> <p>Qualities: I would bring qualities such strong work ethic, good leadership, and kindness to the program. All of which, especially kindness, is needed to be a strong and empathetic leader/ member of the Youth Advisory Board.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: To me, civic engagement means for a community to come together to solve any problems that we, as a community, are facing. This is why I am passionate about being a part of the Youth Advisory Board, as it would give me the opportunity to exercise my civic duties and work towards making a stronger and happier community. I feel that it is my duty to serve the community to the best of my ability.</p>
2/25/2025	Huang, Chase	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2031/ Las Brisas/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interests: I would like to be able to learn about the community and collaborate with people to see issues from multiple perspectives and solve problems. Additionally, I am interested in the inner workings of governments big and small. From this service to the board, I am hoping to gain critical government experience for use in the future.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: I was previously the historian (2023-2024) and treasurer (2024-Present) of the Las Brisas Student Council, raising money for classroom equipment and a mural for the school. From a young age, I have been fascinated by the inner workings of any government, mostly sparked by the 2020 election. Additionally, I often find myself working to clean up trash from my local community, in ways similar to that of the Board.</p> <p>Qualities: As a YAB member, I will serve as a critical thinker, being able to unbiasedly analyze the effects of the board's actions. Additionally, I will bring a genuine interest in government to the board, as I have been doing since second grade. As a 7-year-old,</p>

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			<p>I began to look into niche aspects of domestic and international government, such as gerrymandering and the Electoral College. Even today, I look over the ballot with my parents and advise them on what to vote for or against.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: Civic engagement means the right to freely voice opinions within your community, while also being able to participate in what happens in the world around you.</p>
2/26/2025	Pogge, Colton	Palo Verde	<p>Graduation: 2030/ Paseo Verde/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interest: I am hoping to fix small hazards in our schools, sidewalks, and traffic/pedestrian safety. I would like to help other community members in need.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: I, as a 7th grader, am the vice president of Paseo Verde Elementary. I am extremely involved in student council and also NJHS (National Junior Honor Society) member.</p> <p>Qualities: Leadership is a quality that I possess. I also enjoy volunteering.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: Civic Engagement means volunteering to keep the city safe and thriving.</p>
2/28/25	Kaza, Lakshmi	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2030/ BASIS Peoria/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interests: I would like to get involved in community programs and to participate in volunteer activities and make a difference.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: Basketball and art</p> <p>Qualities: Leadership and giving time and ideas and do volunteer activities</p>
2/28/25 Interviewed 3/18/2025	Wheeler, Bayli	Ironwood	<p>Graduation: 2029/Frontier Elementary/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interests: I was interested in joining the board when I first learned about it at school. It wasn't until I got to go to Youth Government Day that I was definite about wanting to try and apply for the board. I really want to help make a difference here in Peoria, whether it be through community service projects or assisting to an idea during a City Council meeting and think this is one of the best ways that I'd be able to do it. I'm hoping to gain some new skills like time management and communication and maybe even make new friends.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: I am the president of my school's Student Council and an officer for our National Junior Honor Society. I also help with concession stands for my club team when we host tournaments and am hoping to start Junior Guarding at the Peoria Public Pool this summer.</p> <p>Qualities: As a Youth Advisory Board member, I believe I'd bring qualities like creativity and integrity, and I'd be an extremely hard-working member, putting the time and effort in being the best person I can be on the board. I believe I'd bring good ideas to the table and I would always make sure that I am on top of community service, schoolwork, and other things.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: To me, civic engagement isn't just participating in community sponsored events, it helps your community in any way you can through things like volunteer work or hands-on projects around the city. Civic engagement is also engaging with your fellow community members and making your voice heard.</p>
3/1/25 Interviewed 3/18/2025	Kaheh, Emma	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2029/ Frontier Elementary/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interests: I'm mainly interested in how to serve people, learn more about the government, my community more specifically, and how to get more involved in everyday civic activities. I personally think it would be substantial for me to get more connected into my community, to learn about it, and to serve its residents for the better, and that's what I believe Youth Advisory Board could permit me to do. That and also the verity of that the Youth Advisory Board could allow me to learn more about the government and also the Peoria community overall. These all perfectly fit what I want to learn and be apart of.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: I have and currently do volunteer at Foster Alliance, which is essentially a nonprofit organization that provides support and needed items to foster homes. Such items include bed frames, mattresses, and boxes for individual kids in sizable homes. A hobby of mine is to keep up on current events happening nationally, always trying to be informed and seeing what things I could do to help.</p> <p>Qualities: As a Youth Advisory Board member, some attributes I would bring to the Board would definitely have to include perseverance, integrity, conscientious, the</p>

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			<p>ability to sympathize and empathize with others and finally, diligence. On a deeper, core level though, these just scratch the surface. To illustrate, a personal experience I've gone through in my life has been trying to get into this one ahead class, get my high school math credits earlier. Yet, unfortunately I did not meet the necessary requirements to be able to get into that math class. I was torn, and had a series of depressive episodes. Mercifully though, my journey did not end there. With as persistent as I was, I never steered away from my target, to get into that class. Eventually, I did get into the class, and have been passing it with a high grade of an A. On a further note, many people may be able to sympathize with others, but a common thing others lack, is emotional experience and the ability to empathize. The quantity of depressed youths has risen over the past decade, and I constitute of part of that statistic. The past emotional exposure over the years to me has been far more than the average human being, especially at such a young age. My emotional growth and maturity has been far more than anyone could imagine, which places me at a better position to understand what young people are going through, to empathize with them, and recommend them the help they need to overcome their current struggles and situation. It's also important to point out that even though many could see this as a set back, like Mayor Beck, I see this as my "superpower". I've risen above these tremendous setbacks, and use that to my advantage.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: Civic engagement to me means actively partaking in voting on local elections, issues, running on a jury when called to, participating in events in your community, volunteering to aid others in need, possibly creating and setting up local fundraisers and events, supporting fellow residents and many more aspects. A deeper level of civic engagement can also include running for certain governmental positions, speaking out or against a specific thing in your community, and overall strengthening what America stands for, democracy and freedom of speech.</p>
3/1/2025	Warner, Rebekah	Ironwood	<p>Graduation: 2029/ Frontier Elementary School/ Affiliation: No Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interest: I am interested in Youth Advisory Board because I have always been as involved in my school as I can, and I want to be involved in my community as well. I was first intrigued when I heard about it in an assembly, but I decided to wait until Youth Government Day to make a final decision. After hearing about what it entails at Youth Government Day, I was fully convinced this was something I would enjoy. I hope to receive new life skills, such as time management and adaptability. I want to gain new friends and opportunities to help my community.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: In my school the activities I am involved in that are applicable to Youth Advisory Board are, student council and NJHS. It is my third year as a member, and my second year as the treasurer of student council, while it is my second year in NJHS. Moreover, my family has made a habit of creating and keeping homeless packages in our cars to give away to anyone we see for a few years now.</p> <p>Qualities: One quality I would bring to the Youth Advisory Board is commitment, as in this school year, I have missed no Student Council meetings. Next, I have strong communication skills, such as active listening, friendliness, and ability to take feedback. Additionally, I am empathetic, always trying to understand someone's situations before judging them. Lastly, I am passionate in numerous ways. First, to my academics, having no missing assignments and no lower than a 96% in any of my classes. To help others, I strive to always help people struggling in any way, by serving with my church and family. Finally, to my extracurricular activities, I am contributing/ have contributed to the PUSD JH Honor Jazz Band as the second tenor saxophone, my competitive soccer team as the center defense, and to my school's cross-country team, as the fastest girl at my school.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: To me, civic engagement means helping the members in your community and expressing your opinion. It means being devoted to your city and wanting to better it in any way, by voting, communicating with city workers, serving the community with officials, volunteering, and much more.</p>
3/4/2025	Kaur, Gunayan	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2027/ BASIS Peoria/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interests: I am interested in being a member of the Peoria Youth Advisory Board (PYAB) because I would like to contribute to the betterment of my local community and make a difference. I would like to engage with the diverse members of the</p>

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			<p>community by actively participating in various activities and initiatives planned by the PYAB. This would be an exciting opportunity to collaborate with others, exchange ideas, share skills and make a positive impact on the society. By being involved in the PYAB, I hope to expand my horizons by learning from experienced leaders, gaining firsthand knowledge of city governance and learning from endless opportunities provided by the PYAB. Ultimately, I hope to gain a meaningful and fulfilling experience, an experience that I can remember, cherish and feel proud to share with others, an experience that can shape me as an individual and as a future leader.</p> <p>P.S. I live in Glendale but go to school in Peoria (Willow District). My parents own and operate preschool in Peoria since last 10years. I hope that you will consider my application.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: National Speech and Debate Association -MS (8thGrade) 5th Place in Declamation -HS (9thGrade) 3rd Place in Original Spoken Word Poetry and 6th Place in Dramatic Interpretation. -HS (10thGrade) 4th Place Original Oratory, 3rd Place in OO, 4th Place in OO, 2nd Place in OO Hemkunt International Speech Symposium (1st Place International 2021, 1st Place International 2024) President and Founder of BASIS Peoria Bhangra Club Captain of the Middle School National Speech and Debate Association Concertmaster of BASIS Peoria Advanced String Orchestra (8th and 10th Grades) Tri-M Honor Society for 9th and 10th (Treasurer 24-25) Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestra (Member of Philharmonic Orchestra) American String Teacher Association Exam (Level 6) Arizona Music Educators Association All Regionals Festival (8th, 9th, 10th Grades) BASIS Peoria String Quartet (9th Grade) Nishkam Seva Gurdwara (Weekly community service) BASIS Peoria Teaching Assistant (9th and 10th Grades) BASIS Peoria Peer Tutoring (8th and 9th Grades) National Junior Honor Society (8th and 9th Grades)</p> <p>Qualities: As a member of the PYAB, I would be honored to contribute my public speaking skills to facilitate effective communication with my fellow members and promote team building. Additionally, I would be eager to share my planning and organizational skills to help design and coordinate events. Moreover, I would also be thrilled to collaborate with my fellow members to brainstorm innovative ideas and develop creative solutions to address the challenges our community faces with a goal of improving our community.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: Civic engagement, in my view, takes place when one or more individuals engage with the members of the community and mutually influence one another, thereby making a positive impact on the community. Civic engagement entails stepping forward and taking initiatives to address social matters, influence public policies, promoting awareness, and volunteering.</p>
3/4/25	Chalabee, Faith	Mesquite	<p>Graduation: 2029/ Frontier Elementary School/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interests: I am interested in serving on the Youth Advisory Board because I want to become more involved with my community. It will give me a chance and plenty of opportunities to become more involved with my community. I hope to gain experience and plenty of knowledge, a deeper understanding on what happens in our local communities, useful leadership skills, and being able to create a positive change for and to my community.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: Activities I am involved in include Student Council as a member at school for the past four years, and two years in NJHS. I have joined both groups ever since I got the opportunity to apply.</p> <p>Qualities: A few qualities I would bring as a Youth Advisory Board member are responsibility, reliability, integrity, a positive attitude, patience, and respect. I would also share many thoughts and point of views that may not be thought about.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: To me, civic engagement means creating a positive difference in my community and promoting great qualities of life in a community with skills, knowledge and hard work.</p>

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<p>3/4/25</p> <p>Interviewed 3/18/2025</p>	<p>Stephen, Ved</p>	<p>Mesquite</p>	<p>Graduation: 2030/ BASIS Peoria/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interests: Youth Advisory Board allows us to participate in meaningful activities that creates a positive impact in our community. I was able to meet other members during Teen Debate Night and see first-hand, some of the things YAB members can do. They inspired me by the things they did and revealed that even though I am young, I can make an impact on society. I want to become a person who can speak, inspire, influence and make a real change in the world. I see YAB as a platform and a voice for the greater good of young people in the community. It will help me meet and work with others who share my passion of helping others in need. It would be amazing to be a part of this organization that will move our community into a better future.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: I am a part of Peoria TLA (Teen Leadership Academy), an organization that prepares me for the world and teaches me vital leadership skills. I have volunteered in JSVO for the last 2 years, a club at Basis Peoria which allows young students like me to volunteer in various ways. I have participated in community, school and park cleanups. I have volunteered hours at Feed My Starving Children, AZ. During the summer of 2024, I enrolled in Project Smile, an online organization that allows its participants to spread a smile across faces all over the country. As part of that, last summer I was able to make 150 cards to spark joy in sick children admitted in hospitals. I also am a Teacher’s Assistant to my biology teacher where I grade papers and work with students facing difficulties. Additionally, I tutor students in Math and English at Basis Peoria.</p> <p>I love reading and creative writing. I am proficient in using Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel and also with HTML coding so I am able to make websites. I participate in many extracurriculars: tennis, pickleball, badminton, table tennis, swimming, karate and robotics. I can also play the piano and am just picking up violin. I love to volunteer and help others and I would be happy to provide my skills to anything that YAB needs them for and to help set up anything that can use these activities that I have experience in.</p> <p>Qualities: Without determination, collaboration, teamwork and working hard, we cannot make a positive impact in our community. Schoolwork combined with extracurricular activities has taught me planning skills and the discipline to stick to a plan until the end. I think it is important to have fun while working hard as well and I believe in making friends while achieving something good. I want to make a difference and I wish to help. I am an active learner. I want to learn not only about my community and its needs, but also what I am able to contribute.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: One line is repeated throughout history, exclaimed by Patrick Henry, Aesop and even Abraham Lincoln: “United we stand and divided we fall”! One ant can’t hold up the burden of a colony just like one person cannot uplift our society. To me civic engagement means working together to make meaningful changes and to advocate for positive impact. It means to connect with the local government, educate myself about policy, identify needs, and gaps, to ensure we are not leaving the less fortunate ones behind. Civic engagement is a passion. A passion to work with others to do good and make a better world. To fix the cracks in our community, we must unite!</p>
<p>3/18/2025</p>	<p>Kaur, Eshreen</p>	<p>Willow</p>	<p>Graduation: 2030/Basis Peoria/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interests: I am interested in joining the Youth Advisory Board because I want to create a positive impact as a youth member of Peoria by connecting our community. I would contribute to this by organizing community events, recreation programs, and philanthropy events. I would work on current youth issues including mental health, nutrition deficiency, lack of physical activity, and I would encourage engagement in reading and writing programs. I hope to gain lots of experience in creating events to help promote the wellbeing of the youth as much as possible. It will also give me a great opportunity to work with other youth members for the great cause of making sure all youth voices are heard.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: I am a member of several community services and extracurriculars. In school, I am apart of the National Junior Honors Society (NJHS), in which we have a commitment to the values of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. I am also apart of the Junior Service Volunteer Organization (JSVO) in my school. In JSVO, our goal is to showcase leadership skills and service mindsets while also giving back to the community. I am additionally apart of Junior Tri-M Honor</p>

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			<p>Society, in which we make music based service projects to make a difference in our community. I was also a member of the BASIS Peoria Middle school Student Council and Deans Team. Outside of school, I am apart of National Charity League (NCL), which is a multi-generational philanthropic organization of mothers and daughters. The goal in this program is to promote human welfare by practicing philanthropy, leadership, and culture.</p> <p>Qualities: As a Youth Advisory Board member, I would bring in the qualities of teamwork, leadership, volunteerism, community service, and advocacy for youth improvement projects. I would also bring in good communication skills to efficiently communicate any ideas with the other members of the YAB. Analyzing, identifying, and solving youth problems with everyone would be heavily focused by me to improve the lifestyle of our youth. I would bring in a great learning mindset to learn all about our youth community and how to fix any complications within it.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: To me, civic engagement means to actively participate in our communities for a much better future. It includes teamwork to create a positive change in our community. Civic engagement is not only to help the public youth advance, but to promote good mental and physical health for those in our community. Implying a sense of responsibility, staying politically engaged, and advocating for issues can help heavily promote this. Civic engagement helps us youth members feel empowered and capable of making a difference.</p>
4/1/2025	Julia Hebel	Mesquite	<p>Graduation: 2027 / Liberty High School/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interests: I would love to advocate for experiences that showcase the youth of our community. As a student who has participated in many of the arts, I always love to go to events like the Peoria Arts Festival. I hope gain more of these experiences and advocate for them. I would love to be able to grow in my knowledge of how our community operates, and learn how to be in an advisory board.</p> <p>Extracurriculars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Volunteer with the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution •Leader at my church’s youth group •Marching band mellophone section leader •Worked at Vista Winds retirement home <p>Qualities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Friendly •Hard worker •Optimistic •Artistic •Determined •Caring •Reliable •Reasonable •Organized <p>Civic engagement: I feel very strongly about being involved in my community, and am excited at the possibility of having a positive impact on it. Civic engagement is important because we, the people in our community, are the ones that shape it, so it is important to be involved.</p>
4/4/25	Crepeau, Cora	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2031/ Peoria Traditional/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interest: I am interested in showing my opinion on youth programs in Peoria and to gain experience in leadership. It would also be a great way to meet new people.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: I’m a competitive gymnast and I am the district of Peoria 2024 10u dive champion. I have also done Peoria soccer growing up.</p> <p>Qualities: My years of doing youth sports I have learned patience, how to work for a goal and set them, and to try my hardest at everything I do.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: To me it means helping out your community as a citizen and I can enhance my community by becoming a youth advisory board member.</p>

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4/4/25	Barron, Yara	Acacia	<p>Graduation: 2027/ Raymond S. Kellis High School/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interests: I am interested because I want to get more involved in developing and improving my community, and I also want to learn leadership and camaraderie skills.</p> <p>Extracurricular: I haven't done any activity of this type yet, but I learn quickly, I am responsible, and I am really interested in being part of the Youth Advisory Board.</p> <p>Qualities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Responsibility 2. Discipline 3. Teamwork 4. leadership 5. Camaraderie <p>Civic Engagement: For me, it means being part of a group of people dedicated to serving and covering the needs and well-being of their community.</p>
4/6/2025	Hererra, Abby	Ironwood	<p>Graduation: 2026/ Liberty High School/ Affiliation: N</p> <p>Interest: I'm interested in serving on the Youth Advisory Board because I genuinely care about making a difference in my community and want to be more civically engaged. I feel like now is the perfect time to start using my voice and ideas to create real change. I hope to grow as a leader, learn more about how decisions are made at the local level, and work alongside other passionate students to make our community a better place for everyone.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: Arizona DECA State Officer, Student Council Class Senator, Community Service Chair, 4-H State Ambassador, Key Club Historian, Spanish Honor Society Historian, FCCLA VP, Empowered Youth Leaders, STAND (with county health department). I'm also passionate about youth leadership, civic engagement, and public service,</p> <p>Qualities: As a Youth Advisory Board member, I'd bring a strong work ethic, a genuine passion for helping others, and a creative mindset. I'm a good listener and team player, and I'm not afraid to speak up when something matters to me. I always try to lead with kindness and stay open to learning from different perspectives. I care deeply about my community, and I'd bring dedication, energy, and a student voice that's ready to make a difference.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: To me, civic engagement means using your voice and actions to make a difference in your community. Since 2018, I've been involved in civic engagement through 4-H by leading community service projects and helping organize trips to the Arizona State Capitol as a State Ambassador. I've also met with Senator Mark Kelly and Representatives Juan Ciscomani and Eli Crane in Washington, D.C. to advocate for youth issues. In June, I'll continue this journey at the Civic Matters trip in D.C.</p>