

VETERANS BOARD – Residency Requirement

Authority: City Code, Chapter 3, Sections 3-42 and 3-43

Members: 7 and 2 Alternates

Duties: The Board is responsible for development and promotional activities related to the recognition of veterans of the armed forces of the United States and their contributions to the community. The Board recommends activities and events to the City to focus on the contributions of veterans.

Liaison: Marylou Stephens and Bill Moss / Arts, Culture and Library Services

Vacant
Reappointment

CURRENT MEMBERS

Name	District	Alt	Appointed	Reappt'd	Reappt'd	Reappt'd	Reappt'd	Reappt'd	Expiration
Duke, Scott	Mesquite	No	11/19/2024						12/31/2026
Dobson, Richard	Willow	No	03/07/2023	6/17/2025					6/30/2027
Irby, Anthony	Acacia	No	08/01/2008	11/01/2009	10/01/2013	10/03/2017	9/14/2021	11/15/2023	12/31/2025
Kruk, Michael	Palo Verde	No	1/4/2022	7/1/2024					6/30/2026
Snidecor, Tad	Palo Verde	No	11/07/2017	9/14/2021	11/15/2023				12/31/2025
VACANT		Yes							
VACANT		Yes							
VACANT		No							
VACANT		No							

VETERANS BOARD - PENDING APPLICANTS

Application Date	Name	District	Qualification Summary
10/28/2024 Interviewed 11/12/2024	Bushong, Kim	Palo Verde	<p>Interest: N/A</p> <p>Qualifications: N/A</p> <p>Experience: I am a Veteran. Air Force 1971-1975</p> <p>Engaged with Special Events: Luke Days while employed with with andUSAF. Duties included weekly planning meeting to plan each set up of sale ,multiple display, food and souvenir stands. Also emergency committee to preplan possible emergencies that could develop.</p> <p>What do you see as an appropriate role for a City in supporting veteran causes? There's a number of veterans that has not been seen since Viet Nam. With the advance of weaponry and medical advances the numbers of survivors has increased that many Vets have slipped into areas that are harder to bring them to areas of help.</p>
2/11/2025 Interviewed 8/12/2025	Clure, Joe	Mesquite	<p>Interest: I am interested in serving on the Veterans Memorial Board to assist the City in recognizing our great veterans and current members of the military. As far as what I hope to gain from my service, just the satisfaction of helping our veterans!</p> <p>Qualifications: As a veteran of the U.S. Army, I understand the veteran/military community. I am a member of Peoria American LegionPost 62 as well as an honorary commander of the 944th Fighter Wing/LRS, Luke Air Force Base.</p> <p>Experience: I recently lobbied a bill (SB1174; tuition; family; posttraumatic stress; suicide 2024) at the Arizona State Legislature that provides in state college tuition for the surviving dependents of police, fi re, and veterans/military members who commit suicide as a result of duty related PTSD.</p> <p>I am familiar with USERRA and have assisted numerous police officers with employment/employer issues over the years.</p> <p>Special Events: I have planned several large scale events involving the LODD of police officers in which several thousands have attended over a 16 hour period. These events depended heavily on volunteers and community donations.</p> <p>Role of the City: I see the City's role as a partnership with the community and the VMB. We live in an area that has tremendous support for our military and our veterans. I believe the city's main role is to assist in getting the word out about our veteran community events.</p>
6/17/2025	Lyons, Joshua	Mesquite	<p>Interest: I am a combat veteran, a current reservist and have served 3 deployments during the global war on terrorism. I often see with my day to day job as the District Director for Congressman Abraham Hamadeh the silent service of Veterans who choose to continue service silently and unrecognized. I think working to support veterans and their memory is a vital and important part of creating a strong community fabric as well as acknowledging the liberty we enjoy from their service so that it's not forgotten.</p> <p>Qualification: I am a combat veteran, current Army Reserve Intelligence Officer, and the District Director of a congressional office. I have worked for the Department of State as a Counterintelligence analyst, and have supported several community service organizations with volunteer time and financial support. My service as a GWOT veteran provides a unique perspective to a community that has yet to receive an official national memorial and is underrepresented in veterans service organizations and advocacy. I attempted to attache a resume but it would not let me.</p> <p>Experience: I have assisted the DAV and VFW with veteran outreach. Drafted legislation for assisting Veterans with tax benefits, and have participated with many veterans outreach and events through my job as the District Director for Congressman Abraham Hamadeh.</p> <p>Special Events: was a special operations contingency planner during my military career. I have done embassy events to include evacuations, and planned diplomatic events with my time at state department. As an additional duty I was a protocol officer and helped planned events for visiting VIPs or senior leaders.</p> <p>Role of the city: I believe that honoring the sacrifice and service of the men and women who serve a community is a critical social function of a city. We enjoy liberty based on their service and sacrifice, we as a society owe a debt often not fully understtod. I have two published op-eds I can provide pertaining to most recently to memorial day and veterans day that were designed to help others gain an understanding of the importance of price our liberty costs.</p>

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD – Residency Requirement

Authority: City Code, Chapter 3, Sections 3-46 and 3-47
 Members: 21 and 2 Alternates
 Duties: This Board advises the City, through the City Manager on the development of public recreational and youth activities and programs in the city, plans and implements a Student Government Day, and reviews ordinances or proposals pertaining to youth activities as directed by the City Council.
 Liaison: Chris Hallett / Neighborhood and Human Services

Vacant
Recommended 5/2025
Reappointment

CURRENT MEMBERS

Name	District	Alt?	School Attending	Grad. Date	Appointed	Reappt'd		Expiration
Adamsha, Sarah	Willow	No	BASIS Peoria	5/2027	4/25/2023	9/5/2025		6/30/2027
AlDuaimy, Lara	Acacia	No	AAEC Paradise Valley	5/2027	9/5/2025			6/30/2027
Harris, Kellen	Mesquite	No	West Wing Elementary	5/2028	11/15/2023			6/30/2026
Holly, Felicia	Pine	No	Peoria Elementary School	5/2027	4/25/2023	9/5/2025		6/30/2027
Houg, Jacob	Ironwood	No	Sunrise Mountain High School	5/2026	4/25/2023	9/5/2025		6/30/2027
Jain, Arv	Ironwood	No	BASIS Peoria	5/2026	9/5/2025			6/30/2027
Joshi, Ishvani	Palo Verde	No	BASIS Peoria	5/2026	9/5/2025			6/30/2027
Kaheh, Emma	Willow	Yes	Frontier Elementary	5/2029	9/5/2025			6/30/2027
Mohanty, Naitk	Mesquite	No	Sandra Day O'Connor	5/2026	9/5/2025			6/30/2027
Navghare, Anika	Willow	No	Mountain Ridge High School	5/2027	7/1/2024			6/30/2027
Ortiz, Mariano	Palo Verde	No	Peoria Elementary	5/2028	7/1/2024			6/30/2026
Rush, Hayden	Ironwood	No	Glendale Preparatory Academy	5/2029	7/1/2024			6/30/2026
Sekar, Aditi	Willow	No	BASIS Peoria	6/2026	7/1/2024			6/30/2026
Shrivastava, Ana	Mesquite	No	BASIS Peoria	5/2026	5/4/2021	4/25/2023	9/5/2025	6/30/2027
Singamaneni, Dhriti Sreesai	Mesquite	No	Glendale Preparatory Academy	5/2027	7/1/2024			6/30/2026
Singh, Naureen	Mesquite	No	Mountain Ridge High School	5/2027	9/5/2025			6/30/2027
Solano, Olivia	Pine	No	Peoria Elementary School	5/2028	4/25/2023	9/5/2025		6/30/2027
Stephen, Ved	Mesquite	No	BASIS Peoria	5/2030	9/5/2025			6/30/2027
Tewari, Many	Ironwood	No	Great Heart Academies	5/2027	5/3/2022	7/1/2024		6/30/2026
Vanteri, Ronit	Willow	No	BASIS Peoria	5/2026	5/3/2022	7/1/2024		6/30/2026
Vemana, Akshathram	Willow	No	BASIS Peoria	5/2026	5/4/2021	4/25/2023	9/5/2025	6/30/2027
Wheeler, Bayli	Ironwood	Yes	Frontier Elementary	5/2029	9/5/2025			

Interviewed: (previous recommendations)

1. AlDuaimy, Lara - regular
2. Jain, Arv - regular
3. Joshi, Ishvani - regular
4. Kaheh, Emma - alternate
5. Mohanty, Naitik - regular
6. Shrivastava, Zoe
7. Singh, Naureen - regular
8. Stephen, Ved - regular
9. Wheeler, Bayli - alternate

Initial Appointment Interviews (September 9, 2025):

1. Brij Kapadia

Reappointments:

1. Adamsha, Sarah - reappoint
2. Holly, Felicia - reappoint
3. Houg, Jacob - reappoint
4. Shrivastava, Ana - reappoint
5. Solano, Olivia - reappoint
6. Vemana, Akshathram - reappoint

Navghare, Anika – reappoint as a regular member

Youth Council Liaison Interviews:

1. Holly, Felicia - recommended
2. Navghare, Anika - recommended
3. Ortiz, Mariano

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD – PENDING APPLICANTS

Application Date	Name	District	Graduation Date & Qualification Summary
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>
9/26/2023 Interviewed 3/26/2024	Atkinson, Patrick	Mesquite	<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</p>

9/26/2023	Atkinson, Patrick	Mesquite	<p>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>
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>

1/2/2023	Bhat, Chinmay	Willow	<p>the opinions of the majority, because representing the majority might not be my opinion, and, as an individual, I would prefer to follow the delegate model of representation rather than a politico or trustee model of representation. I would also like to bring in data-driven decision-making where I could research and find out the results or outcomes of certain decisions taken in the past, and make sure that if a decision is being taken, it is important to find past success on it to completely make sure that proper decisions are taken, by using proven political data. Civic Engagement: I would like to start off with the dictionary definition of civic engagement before I talk about my definition of civic engagement. Civic engagement is the active participation of individuals in their communities and society at large. My definition of civic engagement is slightly different because I believe that proper civic engagement is the active participation of ALL individuals in their communities. First off, a decision that is taken is a result of the popular vote of everyone. This decision will affect everyone. My main strategy for working as a youth advisory board will be to make sure every single person votes and participates in their community and society. I believe that if there was to be a 60% participation rate and the decision was 49/51 on a specific issue, the data would be inaccurate, so make sure that there is not 99%. but 100% participation would be what proper civic engagement would be. Now, getting 10000/10000 people to vote would be ridiculously hard, and that is why I think as a group of the Youth Advisory Board, we, in the future, would have the ability to convince every single person to vote in their community so that no one is complaining about not getting equal representation in participating in their politics. Another part of civic engagement is raising awareness. Civic engagement doesn't only talk about politics, but it refers to all major issues in our society. It can be about our environment, our health, or our politics. But, advocating for those issues is a significant form of civic engagement. Many people aren't educated about the pros and cons of various different issues, so educating and inspiring others to take a side and join and share knowledge, is an enormous part of civic engagement.</p>
8/20/2023	Bulrich, Komrey	Willow	<p>Graduation Date: 2028 / Hillcrest Middle School / Affiliation: No Interest: I hope to gain a better understanding of how government works and how as a teen I can play a roll 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. 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 with my school's drama club, play clarinet within the band, as well as active with my church and a faith based athletic group within my school. I have earned the National Presidential Service Awards for volunteering for the last four years based on my volunteer hours and I am on track for earning again this year based on volunteer hours this past summer from City of Peoria Junior Lifeguard Program. In additional to my school and community activities I play competitive basketball through my church, I feel that though this I am in touch with so many active teens involved in sports, school activities as well as community clubs and organizations, Qualities: I am organized and put my full effort into everything that I do. I have a passion for helping others. I know that being a liaison to other teens in my school and community would allow not only my ideas but others around me to impact change. I feel like I have a ability to hear what others around me feel are important and can hopefully bring this to advocate for those who otherwise would not have a voice. Meaning of Civic Engagement: Civic engagement allows individuals and communities to impact change to those around them. I hope that in a role like this I can take those voices near me an impact positive change by hearing and applying those opinions around me. As an Youth Advisory Member I can learn from others to make a positive impact in both political and public avenues to make a positive impact on my community.</p>

5/17/2023	Cardona-Tait, Lailah	Mesquite	<p>Graduation Date: 2029 / Westwing Elementary School / Affiliation: No</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>
3/19/2023	Chishom, Karma	Willow	<p>Graduation Date: 2027 / Frontier Elementary / Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interest: I want to be able to volunteer and help the community in the best way possible</p> <p>Extracurriculars: FJHS(NJHS), Morning Announcements</p> <p>Qualities: I would bring my time and help with fundraising and or community service</p> <p>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>
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> <p>Extracurricular: 1st Degree Black Belt in Taekwondo; Feed My Starving Children Volunteer; BCC Korean School Teacher Assistant Volunteer (2022-2023); BCC Youth Worship Team Drummer (2022-2023); Awards: Korean Spirit & Culture Promotion Project 16th Essay Contest in USA Winner (2nd Place 2023); Hobbies: Weightlifting, reading dystopian novels, sketching, playing drums, outdoor activities, arm wrestling, community service; Other interests: ecommerce, finance, education policies</p> <p>Qualities: Some qualities I would bring as a Youth Advisory Board member are perseverance to constantly strive to accomplish issues within the community. I also have the passion and drive to ensure that no job is done half-heartedly. I can also properly communicate my thoughts to my peers and superiors, and more importantly, listen attentively when others are speaking and expressing their thoughts. My connections with youth within my school and church can also aid to further improve quality of life for teens in the city.</p> <p>Meaning of Civic Engagement: To me, civic engagement means working as a group to help improve life for others without expecting anything in return. I believe that when helping out the community, taking initiative to ensure that an issue is solved thoroughly and properly is incredibly important. Civic engagement personally seems like a way for me to give back to the community.</p>

<p>3/29/2023</p> <p>Interviewed 3/26/2024</p>	<p>Farley, Oliver</p>	<p>Mesquite</p>	<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>
<p>2/7/2024</p>	<p>Fontanez, Adaya</p>	<p>Pine</p>	<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>

12/10/2023	Joshi, Ishanvi	Palo Verde	<p>Graduation: 2026 / BASIS Peoria / Affiliation: No 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. 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. Extracurricular: 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, FHLA-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. 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. 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 unethical practices used when slaughtering animals. In order to 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>
4/28/2023	Kaza, Aswini	Willow	<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>
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>
2/25/2024	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</p>

			<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>
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>
3/14/2024	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 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,</p>

			<p>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>
8/23/2023	Mohanty, Naitik	Mesquite	<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>
3/9/2024	Mohapatra,	Willow	Graduation Date: 2029 / BASIS Peoria / Affiliation: Yes, a close family friend of mine is currently

	Shreyanshi		<p>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 student's 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>
3/9/2024	Mohapatra, Shreyanshi	Willow	<p>Qualities: The first quality I would bring to the Youth Advisory Board is my dedication and commitment to my work. I have very strong work ethic and I do not take my duties as a student and a youth citizen lightly. Having said this, to me being a youth citizen means taking a initiative to improve the quality of life for the youth in our community. Additionally, I am very open-minded and willing to implement the opinions of my peers into my own ideas. Open-mindedness is a vital quality when working among a group of people since despite having contradicting beliefs, a team is expected to collaborate well with one another. Lastly, I understand when I need to step up as a leader in certain situations. I care deeply about the adversity we face as youth and I would like the opportunity to be able to share my voice with the community in order to address these issues.</p> <p>Meaning of Civic Engagement: Civic Engagement holds a significant meaning in my personal and academic life. To me it encompasses the active participation of individuals in their communities with the aim of fostering positive social change and improving the overall well-being of a society. It goes beyond simply voting in elections; it involves volunteering advocacy, community organizing to address pressing issues, and promote social justice. I, myself am an aspiring youth advocate for racism and I would like to be more civically involved in issues involving racism to present myself as a stronger advocate. Moreover, I have experienced first-hand racism as well as seen my fellow peers deal with it, and being able to serve as a youth representative for the city will allow me to be more vocal with my concerns and ideas to address these issues. Civic Engagement is a multifaceted concept that requires active participation, collaboration, a focus on public issues, and embracing diversity. By embodying these principles in our daily lives we can contribute to building a more just and equitable society for all and ensuring that all voices are heard and valued in any kind of decision-making process. Civic Engagement matters to me personally because as a seventh grader I see many of my peers struggle with mental health due to numerous causes such as burn out from school, racism, bullying, and body-image issues. RESUME ON FILE</p>

<p>5/10/2023</p> <p>Interviewed</p> <p>3/26/2024</p>	<p>Navghare, Anay</p>	<p>Willow</p>	<p>Graduation: 2027 / BASIS Peoria / Affiliation: No</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>4/1/2024</p>	<p>Reddy, Aashrith</p>	<p>Willow</p>	<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>

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 someday.; writing. it is certainly one of my biggest strengths and my biggest interest. I would love to get something published one day.</p> <p>Qualities: I'm outgoing and available at the drop of a pin. Although public speaking is not one of my strengths, I am getting better constantly and am willing to do it as much as I can. For what I am lacking in that area, I excel in empathy, planning, and organization. I can easily put myself in other people's shoes and can vaguely understand what people can go through. I love organization and making sure that everything is in line perfectly.</p> <p>Meaning of Civic Engagement: Civic engagement isn't just participating in your community, but it is caring about the community and the people living within it. It is doing as much as you can to help your community, whether it be volunteering, tutoring, or picking up some trash off the street. It's not doing because you have to, but because you want to.</p>
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>
3/27/2024	Singh, Naureen	Mesquite	<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.

			<p>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> <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>
12/18/2023	Stokes, Ashlynn	Mesquite	<p>Graduation: 2028 / Vistana Elementary / Affiliation: No</p> <p>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</p> <p>Qualities: I am hardworking, fun, creative, and am good at talking to people.</p> <p>Meaning of Civic Engagement: It means helping out in your community knowing you wont get anything out of it.</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>
10/22/2024	Ahmad, Uwais	Ironwood	<p>Graduation: 2026/ ASU Prep/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: I work at taco bell 35 hours a week, I play tennis, wrestle, and play football too</p> <p>Qualities: I'm smart, responsible, and also very determined.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: Civic engagement is your involvement in civic duties.</p>
1/7/2026	AlDuaimy, Lara	Acacia	<p>Graduation: 2028/AAEC Paradise Valley/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>

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>
12/28/2024	Banerjee, Riya	Mesquite	<p>Graduation: 2027/ BASIS Peoria/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>
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</p>

			<p>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> <p>Qualities: I would come to the table as a Youth Advisory Board member with a very strong passion for advocacy in youth voices and well-being. I am open-minded and sensitive to others, friendly and looking to understand different perspectives. I would work with others well through communication and collaboration. In addition, I have critical thinking abilities, which make it possible for me to analyze issues and make suggestions for creative solutions. I am an active leader with initiative, yet committed to lifelong learning and growth. These qualities would help me be an engaged and impactful member on the board.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: To me, civic engagement is being active and invested in a member of one's community. It is about using your voice to advocate for things that are important to you, working with others to find unmet needs and best solutions, and being proud of upholding the values that fellow residents share. Civic engagement is all about being continuously educated on issues, policies, and the various perspectives present within the community. Crucially, it requires participation—attending meetings, volunteering, and making your voice heard on important matters. By taking part in civic engagement, one can collectively work towards meeting challenges, initiating positive change, and shaping the future course of their community in a valuable way.</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. Marys'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>

10/17/2024	Currey, Gabriel	Palo Verde	<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>
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>
10/1/2024	Hernandez, Aubrey	Mesquite	<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>

9/15/2024	Jain, Arv	Ironwood	<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>
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>Extraarticular: My interest is to provide mental health awareness to youth</p> <p>Coach on equality Provide financial literacy 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>
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 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</p>

		<p>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>
7/16/2024	Pandit, Eshaan	<p>Willow</p> <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.</p> <p>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>

2/23/2025	Shirvastava, Zoe	Mesquite	<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 Advisory 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> <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</p>
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			<p>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 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>
7/24/2024	Simha, Arnav	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> <p>Extracurriculars: Some extracurriculars I do are Policy debate, and participating in national and state-level tournaments. I play tennis and swim competitively over the summer. I helped gather food for a food drive for SEVA for the Navajo tribe community for the last 3 years. Some hobbies are playing piano, researching the aviation sector, and keeping up with current national news. Currently, I'm working on starting an engineering and design club for this academic year at my school and researching environmentally friendly propulsion systems.</p> <p>Qualities: As a member of the youth advisory board, I would provide a variety of unique characteristics and experiences. First, from a cultural standpoint, I can offer insights into the difficulties encountered by immigrant communities because of my own cultural experience as an immigrant. My ability to think critically and analytically comes in second. My competitive policy debate experience has sharpened my critical and analytical thinking abilities. I've done research, created arguments, and comprehended various viewpoints on subjects. Community involvement comes in third. My involvement in food drives demonstrates my dedication to doing community service and my awareness of local problems. Fourth, I know what is occurring at the moment. Keeping abreast of both domestic and global news enables me to make knowledgeable opinions on many matters. I can recognize patterns and comprehend the larger context of problems. Lastly, collaboration and leadership. I have good leadership and teamwork qualities that I have cultivated through debate and community service. I enjoy working in groups and trying to establish common ground to accomplish goals as a team.</p>

			<p>Civic engagement: To me, civic engagement means voting, volunteering for community service, or protesting for change. I feel like these three categories are key for a working city. Voting makes better changes overall for our city by having the people directly choose what changes they want to see. Volunteering helps improve the quality of life in our community for the less fortunate people, volunteering could result in a multitude of things such as cleaner streets and reduced poverty, which is an improvement that benefits everyone. And finally, protesting. The First Amendment is key for a functioning city in case the voting system or government becomes corrupt, this engagement is used to create change in dire circumstances, making it one of the most important forms of civic engagement. Overall, personally, civic engagement is taking action to create change for your community, by creating new ideas, helping to enforce those ideas by community service, and possibly removing those ideas if they cause issues.</p>
8/10/2024	Singhal, Neal	Willow	<p>Graduation:2028/ Liberty High School/ Affiliation: None 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. 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. 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. 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>
8/5/2024	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. 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. Extracurricular: Qualities: As a youth Advisory Board Member, I would bring creativity, Charisma, empathy, and confidence. 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. 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. 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 civil engagement means to me: to make change, regardless of who you are, by actively participating in your community in the name of doing good.</p>

2/23/2025	Shrivastava, Zoe	<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 Advisory 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> <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</p>
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		<p>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 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. 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	<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 curriculars 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, 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	Wheeler, Bayli	Ironwood	<p>Graduation: 2029/Frontier Elementary/ Affiliation: No Affiliation: No 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. 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. 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. 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	Kaheh, Emma	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2029/ Frontier Elementary/ Affiliation: No Affiliation: No 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. 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. Qualities: As a Youth Advisory Board member, some attributes I would bring to the Board would definitely have to include perseverance, integrity, conscientious, the 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. 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 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. 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. 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. 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>
2/28/25	Kaza, Lakshmi	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2030/ BASIS Peoria/ Affiliation: No Interests: I would like to get involved in community programs and to participate in volunteer activities and make a difference. Extracurriculars: Basketball and art Qualities: Leadership and giving time and ideas and do volunteer activities</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 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>

3/4/25	Stephen, Ved	Mesquite	<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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>
3/18/2025	Kaur, Eshreen	Willow	<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 Society, in which we make music based service projects to make a</p>

			<p>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>
4/6/2025	Hererra, Abby	City Limits	<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>
4/4/25	Crepeau, Cora	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2031/ Peoria Traditional/ Affiliation: No 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. 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. 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. 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>
4/4/25	Barron, Yara	Acacia	<p>Graduation: 2027/ Raymond S. Kellis High School/ Affiliation: No 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. 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. Qualities: 1. Responsibility 2. Discipline 3. Teamwork 4. leadership 5. Camaraderie 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>
4/12/25	Tuli, Aryan	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2027/ Mountain Ridge High School/ Affiliation: No Interest: Being connected with your community is extremely important. The Peoria Youth Advisory Board makes decisions that have a direct impact on Peoria high schoolers, and I believe that understanding those decisions is critical. This is why I would like to serve on the Youth Advisory Board. I hope to gain valuable leadership experience, learn from fellow board members, and contribute to meaningful projects that drive change in our immediate community. By collaborating with other motivated youth, I know I can help make a positive change in our community and help serve fellow high schoolers, creating a tangible impact. Qualities: As a member of the Youth Advisory Board, I would bring compassion, initiative, and a strong sense of responsibility. My experience working with peers from diverse backgrounds has strengthened my ability to listen actively and appreciate a range of perspectives. These interactions have shaped the way I approach community challenges. I prioritize empathy, collaboration, and practical solutions. Because of this, I take a solution-oriented approach to leadership. I am not only interested in identifying the issues the youth face but also in working with others to develop thoughtful, innovative responses. I am deeply committed to creating a meaningful impact in my community and am always willing to advocate for others, share ideas, and step into leadership roles when necessary. Above all, I value creating a welcoming, respectful environment where every YAB member feels welcome and listened to. Civic Engagement: Civic engagement is not a just responsibility, it is a privilege that upholds the foundation of our democracy. As President Kennedy once said, "Democracy is never a final achievement. It is a call to an untiring effort." Civic engagement means being an active participant in shaping a better future for all. It encompasses acts of service, informed voting, and using our voices to influence meaningful change. Community service is an extension of that, directly supporting those around us to create a more equitable and connected society. Serving on the Youth Advisory Board aligns directly with these ideals. It empowers youth to participate in state-level conversations, advocate for underrepresented voices, and actively work on initiatives that improve the lives of Arizonans. The YAB turns civic ideals into action and provides a platform for students like me to translate passion into purpose. This opportunity allows me to grow as a citizen, as a leader, and as someone who deeply values the role of youth in civic life.</p>

4/19/2025	Bigalow, Brielle	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2028/ BASIS/ Affiliation: Yes My dad works for Peoria PD, Seth Bigalow.</p> <p>Interest: I am interested in joining the Youth Advisory Board because I really enjoy learning about international affairs and find global politics fascinating. I want to better understand how decisions are made that affect people around the world and share ideas from a youth perspective. I believe that seeing how local decisions are made will help me better understand how global issues are handled, since many international problems start at local levels.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: Current extracurricular: Robotics Apprenticeship Project – Copper Hills Center for the Arts with Ajay Tanikella Robotics Internship – Youth Summer Camps at Copper Hills Center for the Arts with Ajay Tanikella</p> <p>Hobbies and interests: Piano- Regular lessons and recitals at Copper Hills Center for the Arts International Travel- I have a great passion for the world, cultures and people around me and have been blessed to be able to explore with my family.</p> <p>Qualities: My experiences with internships and travel have helped me build skills that I would bring to the Youth Advisory Board. Travel has helped me see the world from different perspectives and has fueled my interest in global issues. Robotics internship taught me how to work with a team, solve problems, and help younger students learn new things. These experiences have helped me grow, and I am excited to bring what I have learned to the board and hear from others too.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: To me, civic engagement means getting involved with my community and helping to make it a better place. Volunteering, taking action, working with others to problem solve or seeking up for issues that matter. By participating in in things like community projects or causes I care about, civic engagement can help make a positive impact, both locally and globally.</p>
4/20/25	Bandatmakuru, Manvitha	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2030/ BASIS/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interest: I'm really interested in being on the Youth Advisory Board because it feels like a real opportunity to speak up about things that are important to us. I'm hoping to learn more about how our community works and connect with other young people who are also passionate about making a difference. For me, it's about gaining the skills to actually create positive change and feeling like I'm contributing to a better future.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: So first I will introduce myself, my name is Manvitha Bandatmakuru. I am a 7th grader at BASIS Peoria, so basically, I am a rising 8th grader. I have so many hobbies such as volunteering, playing basketball, painting, and my most favorite of all playing the guitar, piano, and the violin. I am also really engaged with school extracurriculars. These are few of the school extracurriculars I am involved in: President of the Lower School Newspaper Club in 8th grade, JSVO student, Middle School Science Bowl, and more. I am also a TA (Teacher Assistant) for my biology teacher. I peer tutored in 6th grade, a 5th grader. In 7th grade, I am tutoring a 5th grader again. Also, I got selected to be a mandatory peer tutor for English and Math for my whole 7th grade year because I maintained an average of 95 and above. Plus, I have always maintained an average of 93 and above throughout. Lastly and recently, I was awarded 3rd place in the Junior Division, Behavioral and Social Sciences category of AzSEF 2025 (Arizona Science and Engineering Fair).</p> <p>Qualities: I'd bring fresh ideas, the ability to find information quickly, and a clear, unbiased way of looking at things to help the board make good decisions. I would also bring a lot of leadership as I have experience in being a good leader.</p>

4/21/25	Munjuluri, Venkata Vishvay	Ironwood	<p>Graduation: 2029/ BASIS Peoria/ Affiliation: no</p> <p>Interest: I am interested in the Youth Advisory board because it would help me in understanding the complex decision making process. This will improve my problem identification, solution and execution ability. Solving community related problems would help me in expanding my ability to understand large scale systems. My long term goal is to help society by new solutions through technology(focusing on biotechnology). I am interested in this role because it provides an opportunity to identify society's issues and allows me to contribute ideas that could help in alleviating these challenges.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: Helping others-Homeless Shelter, Library Improving events-Clarity and Organization within events to be improved Interested in making a better place -make sure everyone can have the basic necessities in life Play Violin-can play for a crowd Teacher assistant- Help grade in BASIS Peoria for science teachers</p> <p>Qualities: I would bring strategic planning, hard-worker, and creative solutions if I serve on the youth advisory board. As someone who needs to plan for the best, my strategic solutions could be useful for the board. I am a very hard- worker who will commit to a plan if brought up so that it could be finished. Lastly, my creative solutions could lean away from the regular solution and could help our town prosper.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: Civic engagement means engaging with the community of a town in order to make a difference in our community, making it diverse, more inclusive, and helping people. Civic engagement is also collaborating together to help build a sense of community.</p>
6/21/25	Lafaille, Jakorin	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2027/ Liberty / Affiliation: no</p> <p>Interest: I am interested in serving on the Youth Advisory Board because I'm passionate about making an impact in my community and giving a platform to youth minds. As someone involved in theatre, student leadership, and volunteer work, I've seen how strong youth collaboration can be. I want to gain experience in civic leadership, while strengthening my communication and teamwork skills, and helping to initiatives that positively affect the young people in Peoria.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: I'm a drama club officer and active in my school's advanced theatre class, where I've performed in productions like Mamma Mia and A Christmas Carol. I'm also in the debate club, after-school improv, and have volunteered over 200 hours with the Peoria Student Broadcasting Network (PSBN). Additionally, I've participated in Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and enjoy writing, photography, and cooking. These experiences have helped me build strong collaboration and leadership skills.</p> <p>Qualities: I'm a good listener and a dependable team player. I enjoy working with different types of people and bringing creative ideas to the table. I'm also organized, thoughtful, and not afraid to speak up when something needs to get done. Being in theatre and debate has helped me stay calm under pressure and communicate clearly, which I think would be really useful on the board.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: To me, civic engagement just means being involved in your community and caring about what's going on around you. It's about paying attention, helping where you can, and being part of something bigger than yourself—whether that's volunteering, giving feedback, or joining groups like this one. It's not about having all the answers, but about being willing to show up and make a difference.</p>

6/22/25	Mahadevan, Bala	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2029/ Sandra Day O'Connor/ Affiliation: no</p> <p>Interest: I am deeply interested in the opportunity to improve the quality of life in the community of Peoria. I feel that such work will give me the chance to improve my city and help the people who live within it. Usually, city government is for adults and there is not much possibility for the youth to meaningfully contribute toward government service. I also want to learn how the city of Peoria functions, what issues are present, and how to solve those issues. The Youth Advisory Board gives the option to participate in government and learn those skills. I believe that working to help Peoria's citizens is a great way to meet new people and take various leadership roles and skills. I hope to join the Youth Advisory Board to gain knowledge on leadership, community service, and focus which will help in completing the goals of the board.</p> <p>Extracurriculars:</p> <p>1) Model United Nations - Helped to develop my public speaking skills and complete team projects to address societal problems.</p> <p>2) Tri-M Honor Society - Cooperative between string and band to perform musical pieces for the community at large - This group shares the joy of music and the arts with the general community.</p> <p>3) Speech & Debate - Another great help towards mastering public speaking - Encourages communication and boosts critical thinking</p> <p>4) Tennis - Playing tennis regularly has improved physical fitness - Represents an opportunity to develop discipline and compete in a friendly fashion</p> <p>Qualities: Through my extracurriculars and life experiences, I believe that I have gained an understanding in how I can bring my leadership knowledge and collaborative effort to the rest of the board. As an individual, I promise to be kind and considerate in how I work all members of the board and the community. This will create a positive environment for everyone to interact and function. In that way, we can all work together, get to know one another, and achieve the maximum possible for the city. Finally, I am determined and focused in my efforts. When something gets challenging, I will work harder to make sure the goal gets accomplished. Through appointment to YAB, it's my intention to use my qualities to help those involved address youth related issues and solve them more effectively.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: I view civic engagement as community involvement and doing your part in making it a better place. Civic engagement is about volunteering in your community, helping others, following the laws of a community, and being more involved in learning how government service works. Even students can be civically engaged by joining clubs, helping with school cleanups, or simply learning about current events. Showing care to your community and taking action to make positive differences is the main structure of civic engagement.</p>
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6/17/25	Khare, Eshaan	Mesquite	<p>Graduation: 2027/ BASIS Peoria/ Affiliation: no</p> <p>Interest: I am interested in joining the Youth Advisory Board because I wish to voice my opinions on the development on public recreation and play a part in our generation's voices being heard during decision making, allowing for a meaningful impact in my community. I wish to gain experience in these sort of matters, learning from others and using my skills to advocate for causes that matter to me and my peers while also growing as a leader.</p> <p>Extracurricular: Community garbage pickup volunteering, undergoing summer Banner Health volunteering, participated in the Conrad challenge hoping to make a difference in the world. I have taken an interest in astronomy and have conducted independent research using JMARS demonstrating an initiative and commitment to self-education. I have also taken AP environmental science (which interests me).</p> <p>Qualities: I would bring more STEM focus to the youth advisory boards, potentially allowing for more science-focused activities, a more environmentally conscious approach as well to implementing said activities. I can handle change and stay calm under pressure; I can adjust to new challenges or perspectives when needed, and I listen actively and speak clearly. I know how to express ideas in a respectful and thoughtful way.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: To me, civic engagement means having an active role in your community and society to help improve it. This can be in a numerous number of ways like actively helping your community by volunteering/assisting or working toward community change through community boards voicing one's opinions and supporting campaigns like being more environmentally conscious or striving for educational improvement in our society.</p>
6/18/25	Yelluri, Shakya	Mesquite	<p>Graduation: 2027/ BASIS Peoria/ Affiliation: Yes, I was previously employed by the City of Peoria, where I worked at the public pools as a certified lifeguard through the Star Guard program. During my time there, I was responsible for ensuring the safety of all patrons, responding to emergencies, and maintaining a safe and welcoming environment. This experience allowed me to develop strong communication, responsibility, and teamwork skills in a public service setting.</p> <p>Interest: I am interested in serving on the Youth Advisory Board because I want to make a positive impact in my community and help those around me. Through this opportunity, I hope to develop leadership experience, strengthen my communication skills, and learn how to effectively work with a team. I'm also excited to gain insight into how local government works and to represent the voice of youth while serving the city.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: I have volunteered as a Junior Lifeguard at Sunrise Pool for three years and later worked there professionally as a certified Star Guard lifeguard. I also currently volunteer at Banner Medical Center and have participated in Taekwondo charity breakathon events that support local causes. In addition, I regularly take part in Peoria trail clean-ups, helped organize a local race event, and served as Vice President of my school's Junior Tri-M Honor Society, which focuses on giving back to the community through music. I also have professional experience working at a tutoring center, where I helped students academically and built skills in communication, leadership, and mentorship. Swimming is one of my main hobbies, and I'm passionate about using my interests and experience to give back to the community.</p> <p>Qualities: As a Youth Advisory Board member, I would bring a strong sense of responsibility, leadership, and a genuine passion for serving my community. My experience volunteering in various settings, such as lifeguarding, medical support, and environmental clean-ups has taught me the value of teamwork, communication, and perseverance. I'm reliable, open-minded, and always willing to listen and contribute. I believe in uplifting others and using my voice to represent the needs and ideas of youth in a respectful and impactful way.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: To me, civic engagement means being actively involved in improving and supporting your community. It's about using your voice, time, and actions to make a difference, whether that's through volunteering, participating in local events, or working with others to solve problems. Civic engagement is also about understanding the needs of those around you and taking responsibility to help create positive change. It means not just caring, but stepping up and doing something about it.</p>

6/30/25	Balaji, Vanshika	Mesquite	<p>Graduation: 2028/ Mountain Ridge High School/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interest: I am interested in serving on the City of Peoria Youth Advisory Board because I am passionate about civic engagement and believe that young people should have a meaningful role in shaping their communities. I am eager to represent the perspectives of my peers and contribute to initiatives that support the well-being, growth, and inclusion of youth in Peoria. I believe that the youth can bring valuable insight, creativity, and energy to city discussions, and I want to contribute ideas that reflect what students and teens in our community really need — whether it's increasing mental health support, facilitating events, etc.</p> <p>Through this opportunity, I hope to gain a deeper understanding of how local government functions and how policy decisions are made. I'm also excited to grow my leadership, teamwork, and public speaking skills by collaborating with other motivated students and city leaders. Most importantly, I want to make a positive impact by helping to ensure that the voices of youth are heard and considered in the decisions that affect our lives.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: I have volunteered at multiple places and thus have received the prestigious silver presidential volunteer service award. I love helping others and volunteering. I was in the National Junior Honor Society in my school. I volunteered at St. Vincent de Paul by helping, teaching, and assisting the youth there, and I was a peer tutor at my school and taught younger students. Furthermore, I volunteered at Rio Vista recreation center for around 61 hours. I taught younger students at Highland Lakes about the violin and how to play it. I am volunteering at the Sunrise Mountain Library where I help facilitate the Color Our World summer reading program, interact with residents and assist them in the library, and shelve books. My hobbies and interests are playing tennis, violin, pickleball, and swimming. I am a varsity player on my school tennis team, and I greatly enjoy playing tennis. I am also in my school's orchestra and play the violin.</p> <p>Qualities: As a Youth Advisory Board member, I would bring strong communication skills, a collaborative mindset, and a genuine commitment to community service. I am a thoughtful listener who values diverse perspectives, and I work well both independently and as part of a team. I take initiative, stay organized, and follow through on responsibilities, which I believe are essential qualities for contributing to meaningful projects.</p> <p>In addition, I bring a positive attitude, a willingness to learn, and a deep interest in representing the needs and ideas of my peers. I am respectful, dependable, and dedicated to making a difference. I believe these qualities, combined with my passion for civic involvement, would allow me to contribute meaningfully to the goals of the Youth Advisory Board and the City of Peoria.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: To me, civic engagement means being an active and responsible member of the community. It's about staying informed, speaking up about issues that matter, and taking part in activities that help improve the lives of others. Civic engagement is also about working together to create positive change. It means considering how your actions can benefit your school, neighborhood, and city for the better.</p>
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7/2/2025	Gottam, Vanshika	Willow	<p>Graduation:2028/ Mountain Ridge High School/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interest: I'm interested because I want to make a huge impact in my community and represent our local youth. I hope to gain more leadership experience, learn more about our government, and collaborate with others to positively change Peoria!</p> <p>Extracurricular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Volunteer at Vitalant blood drives through HOSA (worked with check-in, guided people where to go) 2. Volunteer with NMDP (I explained how the donation process worked and guided people through the cheek swabs) 3. Member of a competitive ice hockey team 4. Participant in speech and debate (I did original oratory) 5. I also have a strong passion for spreading mental awareness! <p>Qualities: I would bring strong communication skills, leadership qualities, and an interest in serving my community. I'm open minded and work well in a group. Through my volunteering and other experiences, I've learned how to listen actively and stay committed during tough times.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: To me, civic engagement means actively participating in the community to make a positive impact. It's about helping others, staying committed, speaking up, and striving to make a real difference!!</p>
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7/25/2027	Akula, Manvi	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2028/ Basis Peoria/ Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interest: I am interested in the Youth Advisory Board as I would like to make an positive impact on our city. I believe that as our city evolves, so should our policies and the events. While serving on the board I hope to make new connections and bonds with fellow board members and gain a leadership experience.</p> <p>Extracurricular: I am on my school's Speech and Debate team, and am part of the speech branch. Being in this club has taught me confidence and has allowed me to speak up about ideas and issues that I am passionate about through speeches that I can present and hopefully bring awareness to. My experience from being a member of this team can be applicable to an appointment on the Board as it has taught me the skills needed to present and give my input on ideas for future events, policies and more that are to be made. Furthermore, I was in UNICEF and being part of the club has taught me a lot about teamwork which can also be applicable to an appointment because as a member of a board, being able to communicate and work together with fellow members is important in order to make progress in future plans for the city.</p> <p>Qualities: As a Youth Advisory Board Member, I would bring qualities such as creativity and confidence. I am passionate about making meaningful change in our community as there is always room for growth and speaking up about my opinions when reviewing ordinances or advising events can be key to creating prosperity in our city. Additionally, creativity is crucial when coming up with beneficial policies or having different viewpoints on a subject.</p> <p>Civic engagement: Civic engagement, to me, means people in a community working together for a cause. Being on the Youth Advisory Board would allow me along with fellow members to participate in civic engagement and make a positive impact in our community for the youth.</p>
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8/24/2025	Kinzie, Raveslout	Palo Verde	<p>Graduation: 2027/ Sunrise Mountain High School/ Affiliation: I am a City of Peoria lifeguard for Peoria High School Pool Location.</p> <p>Interest: I am interested in the Youth Advisory Board because I want to become more involved in our community and learn more about this outstanding leadership role. I want to be able to give a voice to the young adults of Peoria who don't normally get a seat at the table.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: I am in my high school's student council and have been an active member since my freshman year. I volunteer often with my council or occasionally on my own</p> <p>Qualities: I am a natural born leader who will always complete a task with precision and pride while being able to listen to others although we may not agree the on the same subject. This role has big shoes to fill and I am ready to go above and beyond for it.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: Civic engagement means to me being able to speak on issues that arise in the young community, learning how to navigate a system of government, and taking time and responsibility into this role.</p>
8/31/2025	Kapadia, Brij	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2029 / School not answered / Affiliation: No</p> <p>Interest: I am interested because i am just starting high school and what better way than joining the youth advisory board can help me get involved in my community and make a difference.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: Boy scouts, Part of my temple's youth volunteer commity.</p> <p>Qualities: Good people skills, Smile, good mood</p> <p>Civic Engagement: It means helping and working with others on a personal level and making a difference.</p> <p>RESUME ON FILE</p>
9/2/2025	Andrade, Ashton	Willow	<p>Graduation: 2027 / Sandra Day O'Connor / Affiliation: I am not an employee of the City of Peoria as I am a student in high school. I do not know anyone employed by the City of Peoria, but my mother does work for the State of Arizona in the Department of Child Safety. My family is affiliated with the City of Peoria in the sense that it is our home as we reside in Peoria's Willow District.</p> <p>Interest: The Youth Advisory Board was relatively unknown to me until a few months ago when I learned about more programs within my community such as this. It gained my interest when I learned that high school students such as myself can participate within the local government with programs such as this one. I do hope to learn about the local government and its processes reflecting back on what we learn about in school and what is generally believed. I also wish to meet many new people through the program and through community outreach and volunteering.</p> <p>Extracurriculars: Much of my extracurricular activities and hobbies are rooted in civics with history being one of my strongest subjects backed by my interest in it outside of school. Within my school, I am part of a club called the Academy of Civic Engagement which is based around Civics and gives me the opportunity to earn the Seal of Civic Engagement from the State which ties back into the Youth Advisory Board where Civics is a core idea.</p> <p>Qualities: As a Youth Advisory Board member, I would bring my experiences with civics all throughout high school, to help perform the duties instructed by the local government. I always make the best of anything, and I stay truthful even when it doesn't benefit me.</p> <p>Civic Engagement: Civic engagement to me is participating in the government and society through volunteering, stepping up, and acting upon problems that arise within the community. The study of Civics is important in a community to identify the rights and responsibilities held by all citizens and members of society for the community to flourish.</p>