



## **Westchester County Youth Councils**

Thank you for your interest in the Westchester County Youth Councils (of Family Services of Westchester). In this packet you will find our mission statement, descriptions of the Junior Council and Senior Council and frequently asked questions. Becoming a member of the Westchester County Youth Councils is a unique opportunity to join a rich history of youth leadership and to develop the skills to create positive change in your peer groups, schools, and community. After reviewing and completing packet, please contact us via email to schedule a brief interview.

Thank you!

Kind Regards,

Sheldon Edwards

Program Director

106 N. Broadway

White Plains, NY 10603

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## **Mission**

The mission of the Westchester County Youth Councils (of Family Services of Westchester) is to promote civic engagement among youth in Westchester County. The Westchester County Youth Councils consist of two distinct groups: The Junior Youth Council and The Senior Youth Council. These countywide, youth led, and adult supported multi-issue advocacy programs are designed to empower and equip young people to create positive change in their communities. The Youth Councils create opportunities for youth to cultivate valuable leadership skills and exercise them through a wide variety of youth-led community service, advocacy, and activism initiatives.

## **Junior Youth Council**

The Junior Youth Council, a program for youth ages 10-14 years old, meets our mission through supporting members in identifying the issues that matter to them and organizing opportunities to learn more and take action through community service and advocacy projects. Junior Council projects have included creating their own community garden, creating a mobile mural to educate their peers about mental health, advocating for youth issues to the Westchester Board of Legislators, fundraising for hurricane relief, volunteering at different cultural events, and participating in inter-generational advocacy events across Westchester. The Junior Council also gets the chance to enjoy fun activities and trips to art exhibits, rock climbing, improvisation workshops, local farms, yoga classes and social justice events. Junior Council members can increase knowledge, self-efficacy, and autonomy as they practice the creative and practical skills necessary to create change.

## **Senior Youth Council**

The Senior Youth Council, a program for youth ages 14-18 years old, meets our mission through providing training on leadership and advocacy skills and strategies. Members put these skills into practice by organizing events and projects to address the issues that are important to them. Members become active voices on these issues through participation in forums, round-table discussions and public hearings. Senior Council members collaborate with local governments, commissions, task forces, schools, and community organizations thus developing and implementing their agenda while honing in on their skills as leaders.



## The Westchester County Youth Council FAQ's

Q: What is the Westchester County Youth Council?

A: The Westchester Youth Council is a youth run multi-issue advocacy program. The program consists of youth representatives from throughout Westchester County with a diverse mix of ethnic, cultural, and economic backgrounds. Interested youth are appointed to the WCYC after initial application and interview with the Director and the Program Coordinator, after which they become full-time members.

- The Junior Council meets Tuesday 5pm-7pm
- The Senior Council meets every Wednesday from 5:30pm-7:30pm
- Weekly attendance strongly encouraged (Teams links can be sent for virtual attendance)
- All meetings are held at FSW's Center for All Ages, 106 North Broadway, White Plains NY
- Food is provided for members during the meeting
- Transportation is available for local members in need but not guaranteed
- Members are required to RSVP to weekly events and activities
- The WCYC provides all programming free of charge to its members!

Q: What do Youth Council Teens do?

A: Youth Council members:

- Develop and promote a county-wide youth action-based agenda
- Interact with local governments, commissions, organizations, task forces and individuals to raise concerns' the interests of youth while becoming more aware of community leaders and their concerns
- Interact with other agencies which assist in developing and implementing their agenda in the form of training, education, events, advocacy and other activities.
- Create long lasting relationships with peers and adults working towards creating lasting change in our communities



Q: What do the teens get?

A: Westchester County Youth Council teens receive:

- Leadership and advocacy training
- Friendship and peer support
- Valuable community service experience
- Recognition throughout Westchester County
- Community service hours
- Opportunities to go on fun and interesting trips

Q: What agencies are involved in the Westchester County Youth Council?

A: The Westchester County Youth Council is the product of an alliance between:

- The Westchester County Youth Bureau
- The Westchester Children's Association
- Family Services of Westchester





# The Westchester County Youth Council Application

The Westchester Youth Councils are exciting volunteer groups for youth ages **10-18** who are interested in community service, activism, and leadership. The Junior Council is for youth in middle school ages ( 10-13) and Senior Council is for youth in highschool ages (14-18). To apply, please answer the following questions down below.

Applicant Information: (Please Print Clearly)

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Your Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex/Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Pronouns: \_\_\_\_\_ Race/ Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about youth council? \_\_\_\_\_

What school activities are you involved in? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What activities are you involved in outside of school?(Volunteer work, community programs, faith programs)

\_\_\_\_\_

Please list two people who we can contact for reference (teacher, guidance, counselor, principal, coach)

Name	Relationship	Phone #	Email
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Please have the application signed by your Parent/Guardian.

I understand that \_\_\_\_\_ is applying for appointment as a member of the Westchester County Youth Council and I support their participation.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your interest in joining Youth Council! Upon receiving your application, we will contact you to schedule a brief interview. PLEASE RETURN YOUR APPLICATION TO:

Sheldon Edwards - Youth Council Director- sheldon.edwards@fsw.org

# FSW

FAMILY SERVICES  
OF  
WESTCHESTER

www.fsw.org

## MEDIA RELEASE

I hereby give my consent to all photographs, audio recordings, and/or video recordings taken of me, my minor child/children or children for who I am the legal guardian of, by Family Services of Westchester staff or their designee. I understand that any such photographs, audio recordings, and/or video recordings become the property of the Family Services of Westchester for the purpose of promoting their organization in brochures, print, radio, print media, social media and television media. There is no limit to how these images can be used for the publicity and promotion of Family Services of Westchester.

I waive any and all rights that I may have against Family Services of Westchester, any employee or representative of Family Services of Westchester for the use of my picture or audio recording in the advertising and promotion of Family Services of Westchester services, including any claims for damages or payment in connection with their use.

I understand that once my image has been printed or used in the development of a media campaign that I cannot rescind this consent. I can however rescind consent for use in future media campaigns.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

please print

### PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

☐ Yes, I give consent for myself

☐ Yes, I give consent for my minor child/children and/or a child for who I am a legal guardian.

Child's Name:

- |          |             |          |
|----------|-------------|----------|
| 1. _____ | Boy or Girl | Age_____ |
| 2. _____ | Boy or Girl | Age_____ |
| 3. _____ | Boy or Girl | Age_____ |
| 4. _____ | Boy or Girl | Age_____ |

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_



Westchester County Youth Councils Program

Transporting Permission Form

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Referred By: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ The Westchester County Youth Council Program staff can transport the above-named child for program activities.

☐ In the event of the program using a third-party form of transportation, you give Westchester County Youth Council Program permission to transport children while being supervised.

Emergency Contact Information

Alternate numbers for caregivers (cell, work, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Emergency contacts (family, friends, Neighbors, etc.)

- Name/ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact info: \_\_\_\_\_
- Name/ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact info: \_\_\_\_\_
- Name/ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact info: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Caregiver/ Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Witness Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Westchester County Youth Council Pre-Survey

1. (Optional) Full Name:

A. Age:

B. Gender:

C. Pronouns:

D. Grade/Year in School:

E. School/Institution:

2. On the following scale, please mark the point that represents your level of interest in civic engagement and advocacy:

☐ Not Interested ☐ Slightly Interested ☐ Moderately Interested ☐ Very Interested ☐ Extremely Interested

3. On the following scale, please mark the point that represents your level of knowledge about civic engagement and advocacy:

☐ Very Low ☐ Low ☐ Moderate ☐ High ☐ Very High

4. Please rate the level of motivation for joining this youth council on the following scale for each of the following categories:

## **Personal interest**

☐ Not Important ☐ Slightly Important ☐ Moderately Important ☐ Very Important ☐ Extremely Important

## **Desire to create positive change**

☐ Not Important ☐ Slightly Important ☐ Moderately Important ☐ Very Important ☐ Extremely Important

## **Recommendation from others**

☐ Not Important ☐ Slightly Important ☐ Moderately Important ☐ Very Important ☐ Extremely Important

## **Academic or extracurricular requirement**

☐ Not Important ☐ Slightly Important ☐ Moderately Important ☐ Very Important ☐ Extremely Important

5. What are some topics, volunteer opportunities, and advocacy work, you wish to cover during your time at Westchester County Youth Council.

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# **Westchester County Youth Council Pre-Survey**

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