

MAG Virtual Youth Network

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Virtual Youth Network provides information about activities and agencies concerning youth in the MAG region. The purpose of the site is to connect MAG member agencies and community partners with opportunities to improve the lives of youth.

Anyone may submit information, flyers about events, research, and best practice case studies by email rbrito@mag.maricopa.gov, fax (602) 254-6490, or mail to 302 North 1st Avenue, #300, Phoenix, AZ 85003, attention Human Services Division. Please call (602) 254-6300 with any questions.

Municipal Youth Commissions

Arizona Governor's Youth Commission

The Governor's Youth Commission (GYC) was originally created in 1989 as the Governor's Youth Commission Against Drugs. The GYC's responsibilities have expanded from year to year, focusing on such areas as volunteerism, service-learning, leadership, civic engagement, and substance abuse prevention. Currently, the purpose of the GYC is to advise the Governor and the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families on issues affecting youth in Arizona. Through research and service projects, the GYC's goal is to make youth policy recommendations to the Governor on issues related to substance abuse prevention, youth homelessness, education, and domestic violence prevention.

Contact name: Amanda Scott-Thomas
Phone number: (602) 542-3426
Email address: ascotthomas@az.gov
Web site: http://gocyf.az.gov/CYD/BRD_AGYC.asp

City of Avondale Youth Advisory Commission

The Youth Advisory Commission promotes positive change in the lives of youth by identifying the needs of youth in Avondale and changes the community's attitude about youth through positive action. The Commission was established by the City Council in 2002.

Contact name: Christopher Lopez
Phone number (623) 333-2700
Email address: clopez@avondale.org
Web site: <http://www.ci.avondale.az.us/index.aspx?NID=912>

Chandler Mayor's Youth Commission

The 15 members and 10 alternates make recommendations to the City Council regarding the youth in Chandler. The members learn about city government, develop leadership skills and provide community services and participate in various programs, events and fund-raisers for Chandler youth.

Contact name: Erika Berry
Phone number (480) 782-2906
Email address: erika.berry@chandleraz.gov
Web site: <http://www.chandleraz.gov/default.aspx?pageid=263>

Fountain Hill Mayor's Youth Council

Since the Mayor's Youth Council of Fountain Hill has been in existence in 1999, it has been comprised of students from 9 to 12th grade who are willing to take an active role in their community. The commission aims to develop students' leadership skills, serve their community through volunteer work and offer a central clearinghouse for ideas that support the goals and give direction to the town's youth.

Contact name: Kathy Worrell
Phone number: (480) 816-5170
Web site: <http://www.fh.az.gov/council-members/youth-council>

Gila River Indian Community Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council

In 1987, several young people in the Gila River Indian Community organized and formed the Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council out of concern for youth not being viewed as a high priority. The intent was to start a grass roots organization that would re-define youth and adult relationships by increasing the level of respect between the two. The Akimel O'odham/Pee-Posh Youth Council is composed of twenty members ranging from 13 to 21 years of age. The Youth Council has two members from each of the seven districts of the Gila River Indian Community who serve two year terms. There are also six community at-large youth representatives who serve one year terms on the youth council.

Contact name: Michael Preston, Youth Council Coordinator/Advisor
Phone number: (520) 562-9593
Web site:
http://www.gricyouthcouncil.org/gryc/index.php?option=com_contact&catid=43&Itemid=3

Glendale Mayors Youth Advisory Commission

The Glendale Mayors Youth Advisory Commission (MYAC) is a working group of 50 high school students with representatives from public and private schools both in Glendale and surrounding cities. MYAC was created to further develop a sense of leadership and community pride among the youth of Glendale. MYAC offers teens the unique ability to express their views and share their ideas about youth-related issues with community leaders. Each MYAC member completes fourteen hours of community service projects, four hours of fundraising activities, attends two City Council meetings and serves on a MYAC subcommittee. Any high school student that resides within Glendale's corporate boundaries is eligible to apply.

Contact name: Rob Bohr
Phone number (623) 930-2260

Email address: rbohr@glendaleaz.com

Web site: <http://www.glendaleaz.com/Mayor/myac.cfm>

Goodyear Youth Commission

The Goodyear Youth Commission provides a venue for students to develop leadership skills through involvement in city government and creates a format for students to express their voice on a variety of youth-related issues, such as youth programming, recreation opportunities, and special events. The Youth Commission serves two purposes: (1) providing a venue for students to develop leadership skills through involvement in city government, e.g., by "shadowing" elected officials and city staff, by volunteering time to assist in city offices, and by devoting time to community service; and (2) creating a format for students to express their voice on a variety of youth-related issues, such as youth programming, recreation opportunities, and special events. Youth can provide a voice on how City government can be more responsive to youth needs and interests. The City Council will give the Youth Commission a charge to structure its mission and purpose.

Phone number (623) 932-3910

Web site: <http://goodyearaz.gov/index.aspx?NID=2564>

Peoria Youth Advisory Board

In June, 1999, city ordinance authorized the appointment of 19 members and two alternates to the city's first Youth Advisory Board. This board of youth advises the City on the development of public recreation as well as programs, events, ordinances, and proposals pertaining to youth within the community. Representatives from all areas of the City come from local schools, as well as charter and private schools. Interested youth must be enrolled in school, and currently be in grades 7 – 11.

Contact name: Kevin Naughton, Teen Services Supervisor

Phone number: (623) 773-8627

Web site: <http://www.peoriaaz.gov/content2.asp?id=1077>

Phoenix Youth and Education Programs Office

The Phoenix Youth and Education Commission is a thirty-five member commission comprised of youth and adult citizens appointed by the Mayor and City Council to advise city leadership on important youth and education issues. The commission is comprised of two committees: The Education Committee and the Youth Committee. The two committees meet on a quarterly basis to discuss items of mutual interest. The Education Committee's charge is to review and make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council about current education issues, policies, and initiatives. The Youth Committee is focused on issues that are of concern to youth. Youth members plan and implement the Phoenix Youth Town Hall, conduct the Outstanding Young Man/Young Woman Program, administer the PAYBACK Grant program, and participate in the Focus on Results Grants Program and know99 Television.

Contact name: Deborah Dillon

Phone number: (602) 495-0314

Email address: deborah.dillon@phoenix.gov
Web site: <http://www.phoenix.gov/EDUCATION/yec.html>

Scottsdale Mayor's Youth Council

The Scottsdale Mayor's Youth Council has been in existence since the late 1980's. The City of Scottsdale's Youth and Family Services staff is responsible for providing direction for the group. The purpose of the Scottsdale Mayor's Youth Council (SMYC) is to provide Scottsdale high school youth the opportunity to: Learn about how local government works and how services are provided, tour various city facilities and meet with key city staff and city officials, participate in various meetings and/or events as they arise and Share their ideas about local government and local issues with the Mayor, Mayor's staff and City Council members. Sophomores, juniors and seniors are eligible if they are attending a high school in Scottsdale, or are Scottsdale residents currently enrolled at a high school.

Contact name: Dan Morgan
Phone number: (480) 312-0106
Email address: dmorgan@scottsdale.az.gov
Web site: <http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/education/SMYC.asp>

Tempe Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission

The Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission (MYAC) was established in 1980 in response to the problems youth often face, such as teen violence, pregnancy, substance abuse, depression, and lack of recreational opportunities. The Commission reports directly to the Mayor and City Council. The commission consists of 18 – 24 members in 8th through 12th grade who reside in Tempe and/or attend school within the City of Tempe and are appointed for three years. They represent various youth interests.

Contact name: Kim Bauman
Phone number: (480) 858-2462
Email address: kim_bauman@tempe.gov
Web site: <http://www.tempe.gov/SocialServices/myac.htm>

Town of Queen Creek Youth Commission

The Youth Commission is for high school students in grades 8-12 who live or attend school in the Queen Creek area.

Contact name: Caitlyn Syphers
Phone number: (480) 358-3700
Web site: <http://www.queencreek.org/Index.aspx?page=471>

Agencies with a Youth Focus

Many agencies in the region offer services to youth. The following is a sampling of programs available. For a detailed listing of all agencies in the region with this focus, please refer to the following:

Community Information and Referral

Phone number: (602) 263-8856

Web site: <http://www.cir.org>

Vulnerable Youth/Youth in Crisis

A New Leaf (Previously PREHAB Arizona)

A New Leaf offers over 25 different programs. Through domestic violence, homeless, and youth programs to accomplish the mission of Helping Families and Changing Lives. A New Leaf offers a variety of services to youth including: three Residential Treatment Centers (RTCs), an accredited school, outpatient counseling, school-based prevention programs and other community-based programs.

Contact name: Mary Bergeson, VP Youth Services

Email address: mbergeson@turneleaf.org

Web site: <http://www.turnanewleaf.org/home.asp>

Arizona Call-A-Teen Youth Resources, Inc. (ACYR)

Arizona Call-A-Teen Youth Resources, Inc. (ACYR) non-profit organization dedicated to developing a well-educated and highly skilled emerging work force by offering programs to vulnerable youth.

Contact name: Pam Smith, Executive Director

Phone number: (602) 252-6721

Web site: <http://www.azcallateen.k12.az.us/>

Phoenix Youth At Risk

Phoenix Youth At Risk provides mentoring and hands-on educational experience for at risk youth.

Contact name: Linda Lyman, President/CEO

Email address: Lynda.lyman@phoenixyouthatrisk.org

Web site: <http://www.phoenixyouthatrisk.org/index.html>

Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development

Since 1972 Tumbleweed has expanded to provide more than 12 direct service programs that provide a continuum of care for over 3000 homeless, abused, abandoned, neglected, and at risk youth annually, ages 11-22 in Maricopa County, AZ. The agency works with youth and families in crisis.

Contact name: Richard E. Geasland, Executive Director

Phone number: (602) 271-9904

Email address: rgeasland@tumbleweed.org

Web site: www.tumbleweed.org

Youth Empowerment Project (YEP)

The Youth Empowerment Project provides teens with the information they need to identify and prevent dating and family violence. Resources and support for teens experiencing a violent dating or family situation are provided on the web site Web of Friends Web site and through a series of public service announcements created for teens, by teens. Web of Friends is a safe and secure place to help you get the support teens need for building healthy relationships.

Contact name: Renney Tenney
Phone number: (602) 254-6300
Email address: rtenney@mag.maricopa.gov
Web site: <http://www.weboffriends.org/>

Social and Recreational

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Phoenix (BGCMP)

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Phoenix provides structured, comprehensive development programs for youth in grades K – 12th. The BGCMP's focus is to provide quality after-school programs, under the supervision of a professional staff, that supplement and enhance their learning and nurturing environments.

Contact name: Amy Gibbons - President and Executive Director
Email address: agibbons@bgcmp.org
Web site: <http://www.bgcmp.org/index.htm>

College Access/ Education/Scholarships

AGUILA Youth Leadership Institute

AGUILA Youth Leadership Institute (AGUILA) is a college access program for Latino/a youth that helps to build a web of support through consistency and powerful messaging. Students begin AGUILA as Juniors and continue to meet once a month through the Senior year. The activities mainly focus on promoting cultural heritage, academic success, civic engagement, leadership, positive self-esteem and healthy relationships. The goal of AGUILA is to create on-going programming for all levels in high school in the near future. However due to an increasing demand to participate AGUILA currently offers Sophomores and Freshman an opportunity to participate in our Summer Symposium which is an intensive orientation to the AGUILA program and college preparation.

Contact name: Rosemary Ybarra-Hernandez, MPA, CEO/President and Founder
Phone number: (602) 518-0612
Email address: Rosemary@aguilayouth.org
Web site: <http://www.aguilayouth.org/>

City of Phoenix College Depot

The mission of the College Depot is providing access to full-service college planning through outreach, guidance, resources and referrals.

Burton Barr Central Library, 2nd floor
1221 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004
Phone number: (602) 261-8847
college.depot@phoenix.gov

School-Based Programs

Peer Solutions

Peer Solutions conducts STAND & SERVE (S&S) a student-run club at local schools to unite elementary through post-secondary schools, families and communities. S&S programs foster empathy, intuition, communication, safe bystander responsibility, identity respect, unity and resource referral skill building while working to prevent sexual, dating, family (including child abuse), school and gang violence, self-injury, suicide, depression, oppression, substance abuse, eating disorders and homelessness. S&S is offered to individuals who witness violent behavior so that they may identify and practice healthy behaviors.

Contact name: Jennifer Rauhouse, Executive Director, Founder
Email address: Jennifer@PeerSolutions.org
Web site: <http://www.peersolutions.org>

Employment/Internships

City of Phoenix Workforce Connections

Youth employment information

Web site: <http://phoenix.gov/menu/teenjob.html>

Goodwill Industries – Youth Services

Web site: <http://www.goodwillaz.org/jobs/youthservices>

Job Corps

Job Corps is a free education and training program that helps young people learn a career, earn a high school diploma or GED, and find and keep a good job. For eligible youth at least 16 years of age, Job Corps provides the all-around skills needed to succeed in a career and in life.

Phone number: (800) 733-5627

Web site: <http://www.jobcorps.gov/Home.aspx>

Maricopa Workforce Connections

Maricopa Workforce Connections, Goodwill Industries of Central Arizona, Arizona Call-A-Teen Youth Resources, the Aspire Collaborative, and YMCA's Las Artes de Maricopa have partnered to provide Maricopa County youth with quality programs designed to assist in overcoming barriers to education and employment.

Phone number: (602) 372-4204

Web site: <http://www.maricopaworkforceconnection.com/Youth/youth.asp>

Volunteering

Hands on Phoenix

Phone number: (602) 973-2212

Web site: www.handsonphoenix.org

Volunteer project database:

<http://www.handsonphoenix.org/projects/viewProject.php?clearFlag=course,specialevent>

Transportation

Valley Metro

Trip planning: www.valleymetro.org

Dial-A-Ride: http://www.valleymetro.org/valley_metro/dial_a_ride/

Reduced fare passes:

http://www.valleymetro.org/fares_and_passes/fare_options/#local_reduced_fares

Leadership Training and Development

Disability

Arizona Disability Post

Web site: <http://www.azdisabilitypost.org/>

Resource Information

Maricopa County Teen Resource Guide

http://www.azchildren.org/MyFiles/PDF/Teen_Resource_Guide.pdf

Events

Research

Digging the Hole Deeper, October 2009

Children's Action Alliance

<http://www.azchildren.org/MyFiles/fiscal%20publications/digging%20the%20hole%20deeper,%2010-20-09.pdf>