

United Way of Coastal Georgia YOUTH UNITED Program Information

United Way of Coastal Georgia's YOUTH UNITED (YU) is an application-based program made up of approximately 15 – 20 students from the Glynn County area high schools. The purpose of YU is to equip young people in the community with the skills and knowledge necessary to be service-oriented leaders, with a focus on local needs and issues. Students will participate in leadership development monthly meetings, attend various nonprofit board meetings, complete ten (10) community service / volunteer hours, and develop and complete a group capstone service project.

Program Objectives:

- Develop and nurture leadership skills through team building, problem solving, and compromise.
- Connect with community leaders across Glynn County.
- Develop a sense of philanthropic ownership in the community.
- Improve the community through youth-led service projects.
- Create an understanding about programs and services offered in Glynn County.
- Nurture the importance of keeping youth and community connected.
- Gain professional experiences through networking and effective decision making.

Student qualification and expectations:

- Applicants will be selected from the area high schools and various community groups including, but not limited to, Glynn Academy, Brunswick High, Frederica Academy, Communities in Schools, Gathering Place 707, Safe Harbor, Coastal Outreach Soccer, and Boys and Girls Club of Coastal Georgia.
- The student must be recommended by their school or a community program, have and maintain a grade point average of 2.8 or greater as reflected on their official high school transcripts, and have no major disciplinary issues.
- The student must complete the YOUTH UNITED application, including obtaining a parent/guardian signature, and agree to the commitment.
- Selections will be made by a United Way committee and communicated in early May.
- The student must be willing to serve a full term (August – May).
- The student will complete a personality indexing survey prior to the first meeting.

YOUTH UNITED structure:

- YU will be structured like a board of directors, including a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and Program Director (for the capstone fundraiser and other service projects). This program belongs to the students and will be run by them.
- Members will attend monthly board / leadership development meetings (see below), with area expert guests. Meetings will be conducted before school, starting at 7:15am. Attendance records will be kept.
- Members will collectively decide on a number of service projects for the year.
- Each member of the program will be required to actively participate in the service projects established by the YU members to satisfy the 10 community service hours requirement of the program. Records will be kept.

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- The capstone project will be a fundraiser organized and conducted by the YU participants. All money raised can be 1) donated to an agency(ies) of their collective choice for a specific project or 2) can be used to fund a community project completed by YU members. Time served in the execution of this capstone project (but not in the development) can be counted toward satisfying the community service hours requirement.
- Each member of YOUTH UNITED will be acknowledged at their respective school's Honors Day.
- The May ceremony will be a dinner celebration to include families where we recognize the outgoing class and welcome the incoming class.

Communication:

We recognize the importance of frequent and effective communication with school counselors and parents/guardians. YU advisors will work with student leaders to produce a short newsletter to be circulated periodically. The newsletter will include class updates and upcoming projects. We also hope to work with NHS and Beta Club advisors to include YU service hours in the requirement for these clubs.

Meeting times and topics (subject to change):

YOUTH UNITED meetings will generally be held the second Tuesday of each month, except for the August kick-off and May dinner. The August kickoff will be held on a Saturday from approximately 9am – 2pm, with lunch provided.

Each month, meetings will run similar to board meetings with a unique topic and special guest focused on local needs and issues. Topics may include community overview/governmental structure; building a stronger community through diversity, equity, and inclusion; examining personality traits and conflict resolution; what is fundraising and strategic planning and why are they important; United Way investment focus areas; and careers in nonprofit and/or community service areas.

The May gathering will be a dinner for participants and families to celebrate the accomplishments of the group and network with incoming participants.

Program Alumni

Alumni of YU will be encouraged to give back to the program by staying engaged with the current class, alumni events, and the annual graduation dinner.

Mentorship

It is our hope that involvement with YU will go well beyond the 9 months in the official program. Through networking and connectivity, we hope to make local community leaders available to graduates to serve as mentors by expanding leadership development into their chosen post-secondary school path.