

**United Way of Coastal Georgia
Youth Service Council
Program Information**



United Way
of Coastal Georgia, Inc.

United Way of Coastal Georgia's Youth Service Council (YSC) is an application-based program made up of approximately 15 – 20 students from the Glynn County area high schools. The purpose of YSC 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, Coastal Outreach Soccer, Boys and Girls Club of Coastal Georgia, and the REACH program.
- 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 Service Council application, including obtaining a parent/guardian signature, and agree to the commitment.
- The student will be interviewed by a selection committee. Selections will be made and communicated in April.
- 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 Service Council structure:

- YSC 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 7:30am. Attendance records will be kept.
- Members will collectively decide on a number of service projects for the year.
- Each member of the council will be required to actively participate in the service projects established by the council 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 council. All money raised can be 1) donated to an agency(ies) of the council's choice for a specific project or 2) can be used to fund a community project completed by YSC 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 the Youth Service Council 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. YSC 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 YSC service hours in the requirement for these clubs.

Sample Calendar (topics subject to change):

Youth Service Council meetings will generally be held the second Tuesday of each month, except for the August kick-off.

- August
 - Kick off meeting held on a Saturday from 9am – 2pm.
 - Personality indexing results and discussion; effective communication; election of officers; committee member selection; program logistics.
- September
 - Community overview; begin discussion about service projects.
- October
 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and a stronger community.
- November
 - Conflict resolution.
- December
 - Fundraising and strategic planning, why it's important.
- January
 - Income stability focus.
- February
 - Education focus.
- March
 - Health focus.
- April
 - Service as a career; completion of capstone project.
- May
 - Program graduation celebration dinner.