



**MISSION:**

The mission of the Waycross Mayor’s Youth Council is to broaden the scope of youth leadership in Waycross, Georgia through volunteerism, service, and initiatives that are directed towards allowing youth input into policy issues, identifying youth issues, and participating in the development of positive solutions.

**PURPOSE:**

The Youth Council will be used to help initiate and foster leadership among youth through education and outreach. The Youth Council is used as a platform to discuss issues such as school violence, underage drinking, peer pressure, teen pregnancy, entertainment, racial tension, community involvement, safety awareness, driver’s education, etc.

**WHAT IS THE WAYCROSS MAYOR’S YOUTH COUNCIL?**

The Youth Council will be a nine (9), organized advisory council of high school students, who regularly advise policy-makers on youth issues. The Youth Council offers youth a voice in the community’s decision-making process and opportunities to learn about government operations first-hand. This council will present an opportunity for youth to become involved in social and political processes so that they may develop leadership, a sense of personal achievement, and an understanding of government.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- ◆ To initiate and foster leadership among youth through education and outreach.
- ◆ To reach out to youth so that they understand governmental processes.
- ◆ To develop healthy citizen habits for the future of the community.
- ◆ To produce productive youth and community ownership.
- ◆ To serve as a catalyst to improve the well-being of youth.
- ◆ To collaborate with other youth agencies to address youth related issues and concerns.
- ◆ To unite youth to bring about positive change within their community.
- ◆ To actively involve youth on policy issues affecting them.
- ◆ To broaden the scope of youth leadership in city government and Ware County School districts.
- ◆ To promote experiential learning on the functions of city government
- ◆ To promote public awareness of the strengths and abilities of youth.
- ◆ To actively involve youth in planning, developing and implementing social, cultural and recreational activities that are drug and alcohol free.



**Waycross Mayor’s Youth Council**

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Opportunity in every direction.



***"It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it."***

***- Nelson Mandela***





### WAYCROSS MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL:

Youth programs are important to cities because they help initiate and foster leadership among youth through education and outreach. The Waycross Mayor's Youth Council is used as a platform to discuss issues such as school violence, underage drinking, peer pressure, teen pregnancy, entertainment, racial tension, community involvement, safety awareness, driver's education, etc.

The Youth Council is an effort to encourage teen involvement in government and the community. This council will be a nine (9) member team who will apply through written and oral applications.

The Youth Council will provide an opportunity for municipal leaders to communicate with youth in their communities and will be an opportunity for youth to use their energy to improve the community in which they live.



### ROLE OF YOUTH COUNCIL:

The Youth Council members support youth initiatives to improve community relations between adults and youth. To support these initiatives, the Youth Council intends to incorporate:

- ◆ Civic participation
- ◆ Service projects
- ◆ Conduct youth forums/summits
- ◆ Create a youth speakers bureau
- ◆ Mentoring opportunities



### CODE OF CONDUCT:

- ◆ Be prompt and present at all meetings and dress appropriately.
- ◆ Be respectful in the treatment of and the interaction with other people.
- ◆ Be mindful of safety issues to ensure that everyone stays safe from harm and injury.
- ◆ Be courteous and do not talk on the cell phone during meetings (mute cell phone).
- ◆ Be aware of inappropriate behavior and stay out of trouble at home and at school.



### MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

Participants must be students of schools within the city limits, including public, private, and home schools. Registration is open to high school students in 9th—11th grades (public, private or home school; between the ages of 14 - 19. Application should be completed by student and parents and include an endorsement from their school principal or counselor; along with a short essay.

The Youth Council is based on the following selection criteria:

- ◆ Application
- ◆ Extracurricular Activity
- ◆ Leadership Skills and Ability
- ◆ Community Involvement
- ◆ Recommendations
- ◆ Interview



### Application Deadline: May 1, 2023

Applications can be obtained online, [waycrossga.gov](http://waycrossga.gov) or through the Waycross Convention & Visitors office located at 417 Pendleton Street, Georgia or school counselors office.

### MEETINGS:

The Youth Council will meet once a month in the Commission Chambers located at City Hall and members will serve a one-year to four-year term or until out of high school or age 19.

