

**City of Santa Barbara  
Parks and Recreation Department**

**PROPOSAL TO FORMALLY ESTABLISH THE SANTA BARBARA YOUTH  
COUNCIL**

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Santa Barbara Youth Council is to advise, comment, and make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission, other City boards and commissions, and City staff on issues that primarily affect youth of Santa Barbara. The Santa Barbara Youth Council is to be the “voice” of the Santa Barbara youth community, identifying issues and other needs of Santa Barbara youth.

II. Duties

The Santa Barbara Youth Council shall perform a variety of guidance and support functions. The scope of such involvement will include, but not be limited to the following:

A. Represent community youth to ensure their concerns, issues and viewpoints are presented.

B. Identify concerns, interests, and needs of Santa Barbara youth and make recommendations to the City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Parks and Recreation Department staff regarding such concerns, interests, and needs.

C. Promote and encourage youth interest and participation in community affairs.

D. Gather youth and community input through civic engagement activities. Create and/or support opportunities for public discussion through forums, meetings, workshops, and conferences. Share information gathered and make recommendations as appropriate.

E. Collaborate and/or engage with other community agencies, advisory bodies or youth groups in areas of mutual concern and benefit.

F. Recommend to the City Council, various city departments and agencies, as appropriate, changes in procedures, policies and/or legislation pertinent to youth in Santa Barbara.

### III. Membership

The Santa Barbara Youth Council shall be composed of fifteen (15) members between the ages of 13-19 years. The membership of the Santa Barbara Youth Council shall be further defined as follows:

- Nine members shall be representatives from the three Santa Barbara School District High schools (Santa Barbara High School, San Marcos High School and Dos Pueblos High School), three from each school
- Two members from local alternative, community, or continuation high schools
- Two members from local private high school or independent studies,
- Two members at large, which may or may not attend any high school
- Of the fifteen members, eight must be residents of the City of Santa Barbara

The Youth Council may create non-voting positions for up to five junior high school students to encourage and involve junior high school age students in Youth Council activities.

### IV. Appointments

Youth Council members shall be appointed through an application and interview process. One interview will be conducted by the Youth Council. The Youth Council will develop recommendations. The second interview will take place as part of the City Council Advisory Committee Interview Process. The Youth Council Chair, or a designee of the Youth Council, shall report to the City Council on the Youth Council recommendations. Appointments will be made by the City Council upon completion of the recruitment and interview process.

### V. Organization

The Santa Barbara Youth Council shall meet at a minimum once of per month on a day and time established by Youth Council action. The Youth Council shall elect from their membership a Chair and Vice Chair, who shall serve in such capacity for terms of one year each. The Youth Council may adopt by-laws by Youth Council action. The Youth Council is required to follow all aspects of the Brown Act. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. Three(s) unexcused absences within a twelve (12) month period may result in a recommendation that the member be removed from the Youth Council.

VI. Terms

Members shall serve two-year terms. Each term of office shall begin on July 1<sup>st</sup> and expire on June 30<sup>th</sup> of the appropriate year. Members may be appointed to multiple terms. If a vacancy occurs prior to the expiration of a term, the City Council may appoint a successor for the remaining portion of the term.

VII. Administration

The Santa Barbara Youth Council shall provide an annual written report to the City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission in July. In addition, the Santa Barbara Youth Council shall prepare other written reports as requested by the City Council, the Parks and Recreation Commission, or other City boards and commissions.