

# **ROCKWALL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL BYLAWS**

## **I. CREATION**

There will be an established Youth Advisory Council for the City of Rockwall sponsored by the Rockwall Volunteer Center.

## **II. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS**

The Youth Advisory Council shall consist of no less than (9) youth members and one (1) adult advisor. All Youth Advisory Councilmembers will be selected via an open application process at the end of the school year and will serve in a nonofficial capacity until they take office in September; notwithstanding the appointment of the Committees' inaugural membership in December 2002. To be eligible for membership potential candidates must be at least sophomore level students at a High School in the City of Rockwall. The Rockwall City Council shall interview a number of selected candidates and appoint each Youth Advisory Councilmember. Potential Youth Advisory Council members will have approximately three minutes to present themselves to the City Council. Following their presentation, the City Council may ask the candidate some follow-up questions. Selection will be based upon their abilities in leadership and community service. The adult advisor shall be appointed by the Rockwall City Council from among the registered voters who serve as faculty for one the Rockwall High Schools. All Youth Advisory Councilmembers must be residents of Rockwall County and must be at least sixteen (16) years of age. In addition, any Youth Advisory Councilmembers eighteen (18) years of age or older must be registered voters in Rockwall County. Applications must be submitted through Rockwall High School.

## **III. TERMS**

Terms for the adult advisor shall be for two (2) years. Each Youth Advisory Councilmember shall be appointed to serve a term of two (2) years, except that of the nine members first appointed; those graduating shall serve a term of one year; while the remaining member shall serve a term of two years. Each Youth Advisory Councilmembers may be reappointed consistent with Rockwall City Council policies. All Youth Advisory Councilmembers shall serve at the pleasure of the Rockwall City Council. The Youth Advisory Council shall include a chair and a vice-chair, both elected annually by members of the Youth Advisory Council. The City Manager of Rockwall or his or her designee shall serve as an advisor and staff liaison to the Youth Advisory Council.

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### IV. ATTENDANCE

Absence from three consecutive meetings of the Youth Advisory Council shall operate to vacate a seat of a member, unless such absence is excused by the adult advisor

### V. OBJECTIVE AND DUTIES

It shall be the purpose of the Rockwall Youth Advisory Council to provide participation by the local youth in municipal government and to routinely report thereon to the Rockwall City Council. The Youth Advisory Council shall be consultative in nature only and charged with evaluating relevant issues and submitting recommendations to the Rockwall City Council and other pertinent parties.

Specifically, the Rockwall Youth Advisory Council shall be responsible for the following:

- A. Promoting participation in and understanding of local government by youth.
- B. Working, as necessary, with certain special events and projects, to better understand the workings of local government.
- C. Periodically attending Rockwall City Council and other Board and Commission meetings either as individuals or as a group.
- D. "Shadowing" Rockwall City Councilmembers and certain other City staff in order to better understand and appreciate their roles in serving citizens and setting policy.
- E. Conducting "pseudo" city council meetings on at least an annual basis to discern the difficulties of decision-making and the gravity of the issues before the Rockwall City Council and how they affect the city and its residents.
- F. Visiting Rockwall Municipal Court to better understand the workings of the local court system.

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Specifically, the Rockwall Youth Advisory Council shall be responsible for the following:

Promoting participation in and understanding of local government by youth.		Visiting Rockwall Municipal Court to better understand the workings of the local court system.
Periodically attending Rockwall City Council and other Board and Commission meetings either as individuals or as a group.		Working, as necessary, with certain special events and projects, to better understand the workings of local government.
Conducting "pseudo" city council meetings on at least an annual basis to discern the difficulties of decision-making and the gravity of the issues before the Rockwall City Council and how they affect the city and its residents.		"Shadowing" Rockwall City Councilmembers and certain other City staff in order to better understand and appreciate their roles in serving citizens and setting policy.
Monitoring municipal programs in regard to their bearing on youth in the Rockwall community.		Making recommendations to the Rockwall City Council relative to programs and activities.
Providing access for comment and input from the youth of the Rockwall community.		Performing other duties as assigned by the Rockwall City Council and City Manager.