

**NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES
INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH, EDUCATION, AND FAMILIES**



**THE E-NEWSLETTER OF NLC'S METLIFE FOUNDATION YOUTH-CITY CONNECTION PROJECT –
PROMOTING YOUTH PARTICIPATION THROUGH A NETWORK OF MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS AND OTHER COMMUNITY LEADERS**

ISSUE 2 – YOUTH SERVICE

MARCH/APRIL 2003

Thank you for your ongoing interest in promoting youth participation in your community. This e-newsletter is designed for municipal officials, city hall staff, and their community partners in promoting youth participation and civic engagement through youth councils, teen courts, youth service, youth mapping, and appointments of youth to boards and commissions.

NLC NETWORK NEWS

1. This edition is being sent to those who have already signed up for the network, as well as others who we think might be interested. **To be sure that you receive future editions**, please make sure you have filled out a network registration form. A copy is attached. If you have questions about this e-newsletter or the network, contact Rachel Banov at fellow@nlc.org or 202/626-3072.
2. Future network e-newsletters will discuss themes such as (1) development of youth councils, (2) achieving diverse representation, (3) teen courts, (4) youth mapping, (5) effective youth/adult partnerships, and (6) appointment of youth to boards and commissions in the strategy spotlight. **If you have information to share about related strategies and/or programs in your city or town**, please contact Rachel Banov at fellow@nlc.org or 202/626-3072.
3. A one-day regional conference on promoting youth participation will be held on May 14, 2003 in Indianapolis, Ind., at the Indianapolis Westin Hotel. Adults and youth (15-18 years old) from all across the U.S. are invited. The conference is co-sponsored by NLC and state municipal leagues in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio. The registration deadline is April 25. **See attached form.** There is no fee, but space is limited. Registrants are required to pay for hotel and travel costs. For information, contact Alicia Johnson at ajohnson@nlc.org or 202/626-3046.
4. National Youth Service Day (NYSD) is April 11-13, 2003. More than 3 million young people from all 50 states and the District of Columbia will participate in service projects on NYSD. For more information, go to www.ysa.org, or call 202/296-2992.
5. The 14th Annual National Service-Learning Conference provides professional development to a diverse audience of adult and youth leaders. This year's Conference, "Weaving the Fabric of Community: A Celebration of Service-Learning," is April 23-26, 2003 in Minneapolis, Minn. For more information, contact the National Youth Leadership Council at 651/631-3672, Ext. 7365 or at nslc@nylc.org, or go to: <http://www.nylc.org/conference2003/index.cfm>.

STRATEGY SPOTLIGHT: YOUTH SERVICE

NOTE: Strategy spotlights can help you learn about and implement ideas appropriate for your community. If you have additional approaches to contribute on this issue's topic, please pass them along so we can add them to our resource database.

Impact of Youth Service on Youth and the Community

Participating in activities to improve their surroundings empowers youth to make a difference and to connect with the civic life of their communities. Service projects also enable young people to build skills, gain experience, and take advantage of important opportunities outside the classroom. Over time, youth who participate in service activities become more engaged in the life of the community and acquire a sense of civic responsibility that can last a lifetime.

Youth who volunteer are more likely to do well in school, graduate, vote, and be philanthropic. Additionally, youth who volunteer just one hour or more a week are 50% less likely to abuse drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, or engage in other destructive behavior. Youth service makes adult volunteering three times more likely, creating a critical pipeline. Teenagers volunteer 2.4 billion hours annually – worth \$34.3 billion to the US economy. [*Statistics courtesy of Youth Service America.*]

Municipal Role

Municipal leaders can promote youth service in a variety of ways:

- Organize a local youth service campaign.
- Start a service group/committee, e.g., a Mayor's Youth Service Task Force.
- Work with an existing youth council or commission to increase service activities.
- Make presentations to young people about the importance and benefits of community service.
- Work with local school officials to develop or expand service-learning projects.
- Contribute city resources – such as funding, staff time, meeting space, and in-kind donations – toward service project planning.
- Promote service projects or programs among other municipal officials and community leaders.
- Send personal letters, co-signed with a youth leader, to individual youth and adults in the community encouraging them to help plan and participate in service projects.
- Help publicize service projects through press releases or public service announcements.

Service Projects

Community service programs should:

- Meet the needs of both the community and the person providing service.
- Articulate clear service and learning goals for everyone that is participating.
- Provide clear definitions of the responsibilities of each person and organization involved.
- Provide the training, supervision, monitoring, support, recognition, and evaluation necessary to achieve service and learning goals.
- Commit explicitly to participation by, and with, diverse populations.

Youth service projects can include revitalizing neighborhoods, promoting voter registration, tutoring younger children, and assisting senior citizens. Examples:

The 25-member *Maumelle, Ark.*, youth council gave more than 1,300 volunteer hours in one year with a Haunted House, Easter Egg hunt, Community Fishing Derby, Coats for Kids, being Santa's Helpers, and operating their own Student Board.

The city of *Coral Springs, Fla.*, provides opportunities for high school students to work directly with the city to improve the community. For example, youth have painted fire hydrants with the Fire Department, cleaned garbage from waterways, and helped direct traffic at a collection site for household hazardous waste.

Participation in National Days of Service and Special Events

Cities may choose to plan projects in conjunction with nationally recognized service events, such as:

- National Youth Service Day: April 11-13, 2003 (<http://www.ysa.org/nysd>).
- National Volunteer Week: April 27 -May 3, 2003 (<http://www.pointsoflight.org/>).
- Join Hands Day: June 21, 2003 (<http://www.joinhandsday.org/>).
- Make a Difference Day: October 25, 2003 (<http://www.makeadifferenceday.com/>).
- Martin Luther King Day of Service: January 19, 2004 (<http://www.mlkday.org/>).

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission in **Bloomington, Ind.**, sponsors “A Day On! Not a Day Off” Service Day Initiative to observe MLK Day. The city holds an annual Web Page Design Contest open to elementary, middle, and high school students and awards mini-grants to organizations that want to sponsor MLK volunteer projects. They are currently collecting reflections from past volunteers, including students’ perspectives, in order to publish a book that will be given to all 6th to 10th graders next year to motivate more youth participation

Service Learning

According to the National Youth Leadership Council, service learning is a method of teaching that enriches learning by engaging students in meaningful service to their schools or communities through careful integration with established learning objectives or curricula. By investigating real-world issues and problems of genuine importance to their communities, youth can become active, involved, articulate, and responsible citizens.

The city of **Pontiac, Mich.**, Youth Task Force on the Environment investigates environmental conditions, problems, and concerns in Pontiac, ranging from abandoned buildings to landfills. They conduct research at the library, as well as through the Internet, site-visits, and by working with local experts in the community. A university program coordinator, who also serves as a Pontiac city councilwoman, organized the task force of 20 students in the fourth to 12th grades in 2001.

Resources for Service Projects *[adapted from Youth Service America Tip Sheet]*

Service projects typically do not require a lot of money. However, some activities might require funding for publicity, supplies, food, or small souvenirs for participation, such as t-shirts. There are numerous ways for youth and other project planners to seek funds and donations, including:

- **Ask municipal governments and school districts** to provide funds and/or in-kind resources.
- **Hold fundraising events** designed to increase visibility of the youth council, organization, or service project while encouraging individuals to make financial contributions. Ideas include holding a car wash, bake sale, used book or rummage sale, or a serve-a-thon (youth can ask sponsors to pledge a certain amount of money for every hour they serve per summer, etc.). These activities are a good opportunity for young people to take the lead in planning projects.
- **Solicit monetary or in-kind donations** from local businesses, foundations, individuals, and nonprofit organizations. Service projects are a great way to include local businesses in youth initiatives. Involvement can mean more than just writing a check. Consider these ideas:
 - Make a “wish-list” for the project so that businesses can make in-kind donations of materials for the project like food, office supplies, balloons, film, etc.
 - Ask businesses to buy ads to publish in an event flyer or program.
 - Ask businesses to help sponsor a portion of or the whole service event.
 - Ask businesses if their employees can help at the service project.
- **Collaborate** with nonprofit organizations (e.g. the YMCA and the Boys and Girls Club), local service organizations, and/or local universities.

- **Apply for Grants** from local and national organizations or foundations, such as the 4-H Council, Kiwanis Clubs, Rotary Clubs, etc. Also, contact the state’s office on volunteerism (often in the Governor’s Office) for ideas or referral to local Communities of Promise or AmeriCorps support.

The Mayor’s Youth Council (MYC) in **Indianapolis, Ind.**, recently received a National 4-H grant to fund a Kids Café at a local afterschool program. Last year, the MYC used grant money to purchase backpacks, school paper, folders, pens and pencils, binders, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo and deodorant for 150 homeless youth during the first week of school.

- **Youth-Administered Grant Programs** enable youth to distribute small amounts of money to their peers to use to run service projects. Youth typically conduct the entire process from writing the application, publicizing the opportunity to their peers, reviewing the proposals in order to determine the recipients, and overseeing the administration of the grants. The size and number of grants awarded will vary depending on how much money is available for dispersal.

The city of **Phoenix, Ariz.**, Education and Youth Commission sponsors a program called “Nothin’ But Positive Youth Giving Back” Service Fund. The program started as a result of a youth town hall meeting where local officials found that youth were interested in community service and in participating in activities that would build their self-confidence and create a positive image of youth in the community. The program distributes \$10,000 annually through grants to groups or clubs. There is a \$750 cap on the size of the grant. Young people wrote the application and are in charge of the distribution process.

Form a Program or Group Focused on Service

In order to offer continuous and organized service opportunities, cities may form youth volunteer groups, committees, or programs. A program might function throughout the whole year, the school year, or during the summer. Having a more formal program also helps institutionalize the significance of youth volunteerism and the support of the community.

The city of **Brea, Calif.**, Community Services Department offers a Volunteer Program for youth ages 13-17. The 10-week summer program offers teens an opportunity to gain leadership skills and work experience and also introduces them to the field of public service. Youth are assigned to various Community Services Department functions, including summer camps, community centers, sports programs, and other recreation activities. Students may opt to receive a small stipend at the end of the program based on the amount of hours they volunteer, OR to have their hours put toward the Mayor’s Youth Award and donate the stipend to the Family Resources Center’s scholarship fund.

Recognition of Youth Service *[adapted from Youth Service America Tip Sheet]*

It is important to recognize youth accomplishments in order to demonstrate they are appreciated, encourage other youth to step forward, and show that youth are valuable community resources.

One way is to highlight youth accomplishments and activities through the media. Ask the local paper to publish examples of youth service. Place announcements in local organization newsletters and on the city website. Encourage radio and television coverage of service projects, outreach efforts, and recognition ceremonies.

Award ceremonies and celebrations provide another way of acknowledging youth achievements. Ask several different youth organizations – such as Girl Scouts, 4-H, Boys and Girls Club, American

Red Cross, or Big Brothers/Big Sisters – to present awards for service, similar to the President's Student Service Awards (www.student-service-awards.org), to deserving volunteers. Host a dinner or reception for the ceremony and ask area restaurants to donate food, or plan a potluck. Invite community leaders, government officials, or area celebrities to speak and present awards.

The Healthy Community*Healthy Youth Initiative in the city of **Boise, Idaho**, sponsored its first “Get into It Teen Service Challenge” in March 2002. After the Challenge, a celebration honored the nearly 1,000 youth who served a total of 5,816 hours during the month-long Challenge. The mayor helped recognize the individual and team prize recipients for completing the most service hours. Team prizes funded service projects identified by the winning teams, while individual prizes supported educational opportunities for winners. The event was so successful in 2002 that Boise is holding its second annual Challenge in April 2003.

Some cities or youth councils establish personal awards or scholarships to recognize youth who have made significant contributions to the community.

The city of **Santa Clara, Calif.**, Youth Commission developed a community service scholarship for three high school juniors and graduating seniors. The Youth Commission raises funds to acknowledge their peers who are committed to community service and seek positive solutions to critical issues facing young people. The scholarship funds can be used toward test fees, application costs, tuition payments, or book expenses. The scholarships are awarded during a formal award presentation at a City Council meeting.

TWO CITIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT: ROCK HILL, S.C. and BOULDER, COLO.

NOTE: The city spotlight provides an opportunity to learn about ideas from other network members. Each issue will spotlight one or two cities. Please share information about your local efforts, so that we can spotlight them in a future e-newsletter.

CITY OF ROCK HILL, S.C. – Population: 49,765

Mayor’s Teen Volunteer Program

The city of **Rock Hill, S.C.**, Mayor’s Teen Volunteer Program (MTV) supports middle-school youth as volunteers for the City of Rock Hill and community agencies. Each year, 60 to 70 rising seventh and eighth-graders are chosen for volunteer service. Students who successfully completed the previous summer’s program are also invited to return.

The city views the program as an opportunity for providing youth positive direction and experiences at a critical developmental stage. The goal of Mayor’s Teen Volunteers is two fold: (1) to teach Rock Hill’s youth about the benefits of volunteerism and leadership through actual volunteer experience, and (2) to utilize the talents of youth for the betterment of the community.

Background

Rock Hill’s previous mayor established the MTV program in 1990 with about thirty students and twelve volunteer sites. Now in its 12th year, current Mayor Doug Echols continues to support this program. Rock Hill hopes to have a total of 100 youth this year.

MTV is a cooperative effort between the City of Rock Hill, Rock Hill School District #3, and area businesses and agencies. It is advised by a 15-member Mayor's Teen Volunteer Advisory Committee, which is appointed by the Rock Hill Parks and Recreation Commission. The Committee's membership includes a guidance counselor from each of the four middle schools, representatives of both large and small businesses, parents, and school district personnel.

Selection Process

Teen volunteers are nominated by the guidance counselors from each of the four local middle schools and local private schools based on criteria including parental support for participation and untapped potential for leadership ability. Each counselor is advised to recommend twenty students from his/her school. MTV staff sends applications to those nominees, and accept the first fifteen applicants from each school.

Training

A reception is held in May to introduce the participants to City Council and to conduct a parent meeting.

The teens attend a weekend training retreat in which they design various aspects of the program and participate in problem-solving exercises, leadership development, and job training. At the end of the retreat, they select their preferred volunteer placements from a list of volunteer locations and duties.

The supervisors also have an opportunity to learn more about the program and tips about how to make best use of the volunteers during a breakfast orientation at the beginning of the summer.

Volunteer Assignments

Program participants are required to volunteer 35 hours over the seven week time period – 5 hours per week. Many youth request to volunteer 60 to 100 hours. Teens perform a variety of tasks, such as computer data entry, reading meters, assisting with younger children, and answering phones.

Some youth assist numerous functions of Rock Hill city government. For example, teens have helped the Parks, Recreation, and Tourism department, both in their office and directly at their programs, summer camps, and community centers. Additionally, youth have worked for Human Resources, City Management, Fleet Maintenance, and the City Warehouse. Other youth volunteer at local schools or community organizations, such as the American Red Cross, the local university, a county museum, the local newspaper, and the Humane Society.

Evaluation Process

The MTV staff request evaluation forms from all stakeholders of the program – the teens that volunteer, their parents, and the supervisors of the volunteer assignments – in order to gain feedback about the program. The evaluation forms for the teen volunteers and the participants' parents try to ascertain how involvement in the MTV program helped encourage the youth's personal development. The supervisor evaluation forms ask for information on the most positive part of the MTV program, how the program could be improved, successful tasks that the volunteers performed, as well as suggestions of other sites that might be interested in having volunteers in the future.

The majority of both the youth and parents who completed last year's evaluation strongly agreed that the program helped develop the following qualities: job skills for the future, interest in volunteering, leadership skills, self-confidence, respect for others, involvement in the city, and better knowledge of Rock Hill. The youth also reported being very satisfied with their site supervisors, the Parks, Recreation, and Tourism staff, and the amount of responsibility they were given at their volunteer assignments. Youth reported, "I really liked being in this program and hope I can do it again next

year!” and “Thanks for the skills!” Parents made similar comments, such as “Thanks for allowing my child to experience such a responsible and positive program” and “This program is instrumental in helping our youth to prepare for the future in education and careers.”

Recognition

Each MTV participant receives a brightly colored t-shirt with a MTV logo on the front, and a quote by Martin Luther King, Jr. on the back: “Everyone is great, because everyone can serve.” At the end of the summer, the Mayor hosts an Award Night at City Hall.

For further information, contact Patti Panetti, Youth Program Coordinator, City of Rock Hill, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department, P.O. Box 11706; Rock Hill, SC 29731-1706. Phone: 803/329-5625; E-mail: ppanetti@ci.rock-hill.sc.us; Website: <http://www.ci.rock-hill.sc.us/prt/mayorsvolunteers.asp>.

CITY OF BOULDER, COLO. – Population: 83,000

Youth Opportunities Program

In 1994, the city of Boulder established the Youth Opportunities Program, a leadership and grant-making program for youth. Its purpose is to make Boulder a better community for people of middle school or high school age by helping them access cultural, educational, and recreational activities.

The Program strengthens the community through: empowering youth, providing opportunities for youth, encouraging youth civic participation and community service, and advising city government.

The Program holds public meetings – called “Word Up!” sessions – on an occasional basis to exchange ideas, information, and feedback with adults and youth in the Boulder community and produces a newsletter several times a year, the “YOABracadabra.”

Youth Opportunities Advisory Board

The Youth Opportunities Advisory Board (YOAB), a group of high school students between the ages of 14-18, advises the Youth Opportunities Program. The 2002-03 YOAB has 15 members. New members join the Board each spring through an application process.

Besides making recommendations to City Council regarding the Youth Opportunities Fund, an important role of the YOAB is to provide information about youth needs and interests to Boulder's City Council, city departments, and local agencies. They also collaborate with other entities to promote the youth voice in Boulder, celebrate outstanding youth volunteers, and promote youth access to cultural, recreational, or educational opportunities.

Types of Funds

A city of Boulder ordinance earmarks 8% of the proceeds of the 0.15% General Sales and Use Tax to the Youth Opportunities Fund. Four types of grants are available to help youth access cultural, educational, or recreational activities:

Individual Fund

- City of Boulder resident youth can apply for up to \$200 a calendar year to help pay for a cultural, educational, or recreational activity in Colorado.
- Examples of activities funded by the program include photography lessons, school sports and equipment, summer camps, musical instruments, etc.
- If funded, youth are expected to give back to the community through service. Youth do four hours of community service for every \$50 they receive.

Group Activities Fund

- Youth, adults, and/or agencies may apply for up to \$1,000 to help pay for a cultural, educational, or recreational activity, or to promote the youth voice in the Boulder community – as long as the activity serves at least ten city of Boulder resident youth.
- Examples of funded projects include a youth music/dance event, a youth retreat, and a mask-making class.
- Applicants are encouraged to integrate a variety of youth into the planning and implementation of the project.
- When possible, youth participants in funded projects are requested to do a community service project in exchange for receiving the funds.

Community Service Fund

- Youth who are planning a short-term community service project may apply for funds to purchase materials needed.
- Examples include a mural project, a theater project, and a social action publication.

Annual Grants Fund

- These grants support groups of youth or youth-serving organizations to do long-term projects.
- Examples of funded projects include: a youth dance company, a youth gardening project, and a school mediation program.
- The minimum size is \$1,000 and the upper limit is \$30,000. The average size has been \$5,000 in recent years, but may increase this year because over \$500,000 in requests have been received.

Review Process

Staff members decide about the Individual Fund applications. The youth who comprise the Youth Opportunities Advisory Board make decisions about applications for the Group and Community Service Funds at its monthly business meetings. Although the YOAB reviews the Annual Grant proposals, interviews applicants, and makes funding recommendations to the City Council, the City Council has the final decision on them. However, so far, the City Council has always approved the recommendations of the youth board.

For further information, contact Alice Swett, 2160 Spruce St., Boulder, CO 80302. Phone: 303/441-4349; E-mail: swetta@ci.boulder.co.us; Website: <http://www.ci.boulder.co.us/cyfhhs/youth/yofinfo.htm>.

RESOURCES

1. **Youth Service America (YSA)** offers a free toolkit and service-learning curriculum guide – both produced for National Youth Service Day. The 64-page toolkit includes information about recruiting volunteers, fundraising, and developing project ideas and public relations. Go to http://www.ysa.org/nysd/nysd_resources_parent.cfm to download or order these publications. **YSA** is a resource center and premier alliance of 300+ organizations committed to increasing the quantity and quality of opportunities for young Americans to serve locally, nationally, or globally. For more information, call 202/296-2992, e-mail nysd@ysa.org, or go to www.ysa.org.
2. **SERVEnet**, a program of **YSA**, is a premier website on service and volunteering. Through SERVENet, users can enter their zip code, city, state, skills, interests, and availability and be matched with organizations needing help. SERVENet is also a place to search for calendar events, service news, recommended books, and best practices. Go to www.servenet.org.

3. **The National Youth Leadership Council's** mission is to build vital, just communities with young people through service learning. For more information, call 651/631-3672, e-mail nylcinfo@nylc.org, or go to <http://www.nylc.org/>.
4. **America's Promise** will hold “**Effective Communities Regional Training Forums for Communities of Promise**” on May 14-16 in Kansas City, Mo., September 3-5 in Detroit, Mich., and November 5-7 in Orlando, Fla. Participants will learn how to maximize the tools and resources available to more effectively deliver the Five Promises to youth. New workshops include ones that focus on fundraising, performance measurement, day-to-day management, and ways to improve your Promise Station. To view the forum brochure, go to http://www.americaspromise.org/forums/RegForum_broch1.pdf. The cost of each three-day conference is \$100/person. To register, go to www.ccsregisteronline.com/ap/apregisterguide.htm for an online form, e-mail ap@customconference.com with your contact information, or call Jennifer Eichel, with Conference Solutions, at 866/324-7103.
5. The **National Conference on Community Volunteering and National Service** will be held from June 8-10 in Baltimore, Md., sponsored by **The Points of Light Foundation**. The conference is a call-to-action for volunteer leaders to convene at the premiere venue for sharing practical knowledge and spreading the message of volunteering and national service. For more information, go to <http://www.polf.org/2003conference/conference.cfm>, call 202/729-8000, or e-mail Conference@pointsoflight.org.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

1. The **Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes** prize honors young people from diverse backgrounds who have shown extraordinary leadership in making our world better. By protecting the environment, helping people, halting violence, or leading other important service work, these young people are true heroes – and an inspiration to us all. Winners of the Barron Prize, who may range in age from 8 to 18 years old, will receive \$2,000. Responsible adults who have solid knowledge of a young person's activities, and who are not related to the nominee, can make nominations. The nomination deadline is May 31, 2003. For more information, go to <http://barronprize.org/criteria/index.html>.

Share information about your local efforts, so we can spotlight your activities and best practices in a future e-newsletter. Include information about activities, website, brochures, reports, etc. that you think network participants will find useful. And, photos are worth a thousand words ... we can use them in the e-newsletter or in NLC's weekly newspaper, *Nation's Cities Weekly*.

Network on Municipal Leadership for Youth Participation: Member Survey

Name _____ Title _____

Department/Organization Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-Mail _____ Website _____

Name of City _____ Population _____

1. In what areas does your municipality have programs or initiatives in place that involve/promote youth participation? In what areas do you hope to begin or expand work in the next year? In what areas would you like assistance?

Check all that apply. Also, please send us written information or websites that describe current (or planned) efforts in your city or town, especially those you would consider models for other communities.

| | <u>Current Activity</u> | <u>New/Expanded Activity</u> | <u>Would Like Help</u> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Local governance/city department (e.g. bureau, agency, commission on youth issues) | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Advisory body composed of youth (e.g. Mayor's Youth Council, Parks & Rec Teen Advisory Board) | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Youth serving on municipal boards or commissions | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Committee assembled for a special event or issue (e.g. skateboard park development committee) | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Youth mapping of city services or assets | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| City sponsored youth summit | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Opportunities for youth service | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Youth staff or interns in a city department (e.g. Parks and Recreation, Planning) | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Training/education of adults about involving youth in decision-making process | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Teen courts | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Other (please describe): | _____ | _____ | _____ |

2. Would you be willing to serve as a resource to other cities interested in learning more about youth participation initiatives and programs in your city?

by phone?: Yes No by e-mail?: Yes No in workshops, etc.?: Yes No

Fax your completed form to: Rachel Banov, NLC Institute for Youth, Education, & Families at 202/626-3043.

Or, e-mail to: fellow@nlc.org. Or, mail to Rachel Banov, NLC, 1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004.

Questions? Call Rachel at 202/626-3072.

PROMOTING YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON MAY 14, 2003 IN INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

SPONSORED BY

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES' INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH, EDUCATION, AND FAMILIES AND
STATE MUNICIPAL LEAGUES IN

ILLINOIS, INDIANA, IOWA, KENTUCKY, MICHIGAN, AND OHIO

Nothing is more important to the health of the nation than the active engagement of young people in local government – through youth councils, youth service, youth summits, and youth mapping of community assets.

For this reason, the National League of Cities (NLC) and its Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (YEF Institute) are supporting mayors and city councilmembers across the country in developing, enhancing, and implementing creative and effective ways to ensure that youth have a “seat at the table” in their cities and towns.

In 2001, the YEF Institute published an action kit for municipal leaders on “Promoting Youth Participation” which details strategies that communities can use to develop and support youth councils, youth summits, youth service, and youth mapping of community assets. In 2002, the YEF Institute launched the MetLife Foundation Youth-City Connection project. Through this project, the YEF Institute is providing technical assistance to 11 cities chosen in a competitive process, holds occasional audioconferences, and has developed an e-mail network for municipal and community leaders who want to share good ideas and learn about important issues.

Now, the YEF Institute – through its MetLife Foundation Youth-City Connection project – is hosting a regional conference on Wednesday, May 14, 2003 (8:30 am to 4:00 pm) in Indianapolis, Ind., to allow even more communities to learn about strategies for promoting youth participation. The conference will provide workshops with local and national experts – including youth, and will provide opportunities for local officials and youth to network with each other and share innovative program examples.

Who should attend?

NLC suggests that any interested municipality send a representative group of youth and adults. Please limit the size of each community’s delegation to six (6) individuals. For example, a city delegation might include:

- Youth aged 15-18 years old (consider asking several youth to attend who are representative of youth in your community including youth leaders, youth being home-schooled, and/or youth in alternative settings);
- Mayor or city council representative;
- Mayor’s education or youth advisor;
- Parks and recreation director;
- Community-based organization representative serving youth and families;
- School district representative; and/or
- Foundation or business representative.

What is the cost?

There is no registration fee; however, there is limited space. In addition, individuals are responsible for covering their own travel expenses to attend the meeting. A block of rooms is reserved under the National League of Cities name for the nights of Tues., May 13th and Wed., May 14th at the rate of \$109 single/double occupancy, plus tax.

What is the hotel’s address?

The Westin Indianapolis, 50 South Capitol Ave., Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
Phone: 317/262-8100 – Fax: 317/231-3990

Who do I contact for more information?

NLC’s YEF Institute: Alicia Johnson at 202/626-3046 or ajohnson@nlc.org

PROMOTING YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

*Sponsored by
National League of Cities
Institute for Youth, Education, and Families'
MetLife Foundation Youth-City Connection Project
&
State Municipal Leagues in
Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio*

REGISTRATION FORM

I plan to participate in the “Promoting Youth Participation in Local Government” regional conference.

a) A topic I would like to see covered: _____

I do NOT plan to attend the “Promoting Youth Participation in Local Government” regional conference, but please send me related materials.

Name: _____

Title: _____

City Agency (or Community Organization) _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Check if Adult or Youth . If youth, please list age _____.

Others with whom you are attending: _____

Please send this form by April 25, 2003 to Alicia Johnson via fax to 202/626-3043,
-or- via e-mail to ajohnson@nlc.org,
-or- by mail to Alicia Johnson, National League of Cities, 1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW,
Washington, DC 20004.