



FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

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Florida League of Cities Announces Municipal Youth Council Community Service Contest Winners

Alachua, Niceville, Tampa, Wellington and West Park youth councils recognized for volunteer service projects

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TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The **Florida League of Cities**, the united voice for Florida’s municipal governments, today announced the winners of the 2020 Municipal Youth Council Community Service Contest. Hosted annually, this contest showcases community service projects performed by municipal youth councils that successfully address specific needs in their local communities.

Composed of high school students within the city, municipal youth councils are special councils that typically serve as an advisory board to the local government. They are sometimes referred to as youth corps, teen advisory boards or mayor’s youth councils.

“I’m passionate about engaging youth in the work of local government, and municipal youth councils are an excellent way to do that,” said **Florida League of Cities President Isaac Salver, council member** for the **Town of Bay Harbor Islands**. “These students are the next generation of civic leaders, and if what we’ve seen from youth councils throughout Florida is any indication, our future looks incredibly bright. On behalf of the League, I congratulate this year’s award winners.”

This year’s contest winners and their projects are:

- **City of Alachua Youth Advisory Council** – *“Election Education for Youth.”*
- **City of Niceville Youth Advisory Council** – *“Twin Cities Pavilion Parade.”*
- **City of Tampa Mayor’s Youth Corps & Leadership Council** – *“Cyrus Greene Community Center Tutoring Program.”*
- **Village of Wellington Youth Council** – *“Helping Youth by Providing Empowerment.”*
- **City of West Park Youth Council** – *“COVID-19 Food Give-A-Ways.”*

The **City of Alachua Youth Advisory Council** launched the **“Election Education for Youth”** project to help educate local students about elections. To do this, they setup information booths at high schools within the city where they engaged with students directly to talk about elections and answer questions. They also provided information on local, state and federal elections, voter registration and the election process overall. The goal of the project was to help young or soon-to-be voters be better informed and more civically engaged.

The “**Twin Cities Pavilion Parade**” project from the **City of Niceville Youth Advisory Council** was a community event focused on supporting the senior citizens of Niceville during the COVID-19 pandemic. For the event, the council recruited volunteers to participate in a drive-by vehicle parade and collected letters and cards to give to the senior residents. The result was a parade of more than 50 vehicles, all decorated with signs and banners offering words of encouragement, dozens of letters with well wishes and positive messages, and a group of senior citizens whose spirits were dramatically lifted.

Through their “**Cyrus Greene Community Center Tutoring Program**,” members of the **City of Tampa Mayor’s Youth Corps & Leadership Council** tutored local elementary and middle school students. During the school year, the council volunteered four days a week at the Cyrus Greene Community Center where they helped students with everything from writing assignments to long division math problems. The council’s goal for the program was to not only help educate these students, but also to inspire them.

The “**Helping Youth by Providing Empowerment**” program from the **Village of Wellington Youth Council** was designed to provide academic support to local elementary and middle school students. As part of the program, the council created “**HYPE (Helping Youth by Providing Empowerment) Hall**,” which serves as a place for the village’s youth to do homework, prepare for tests, complete group projects or even play board games with other children. The council’s goal for the project was to create a safe and welcoming place for local students. The program is proving to provide an important service to the community.

The **City of West Park Youth Council** worked with city leaders, the local Broward Sheriff’s Office District and Feeding South Florida for the “**COVID-19 Food Give-A-Ways**” project. After noticing that the community needed help accessing food during the COVID-19 pandemic, these groups joined forces to host free drive-through food distribution events. So far, they’ve hosted eight events and provided almost half-a-million pounds of food.

Contest winners will receive a trophy, be featured in the League’s award-winning magazine, *Quality Cities (QC)*, and have their projects featured on the League’s website and social media accounts.

For information on the winning projects, [click here](#).

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Founded in 1922, the Florida League of Cities is the united voice for Florida’s municipal governments. Its goals are to promote local self-government and serve the needs of Florida’s cities, which are formed and governed by their citizens. The League believes in “Local Voices Making Local Choices,” which focuses on the impact citizens and city leaders have in improving Florida’s communities. For more information, visit flcities.com.