



NEWS RELEASE

City of Cottonwood, AZ

For Immediate Release

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Parks and Recreation Department - Cottonwood Youth Advisory Commission

“Cottonwood’s Youth Advisory Commission CYAC is Ready for 2014-2015”



On November 16, 2014, the City Council established a Cottonwood Youth Commission to act in an advisory capacity to the City Council on matters pertaining to the child and youth population, especially as it relates to municipal programs and projects. The Commission is composed of 14 members who attend a public, private, or charter school within the city limits, or home schooled representatives who live within or outside the corporate city limits, and one non-voting community representative who resides either within or outside the corporate limits of the City of Cottonwood. The following individuals were appointed members of the Cottonwood Youth Commission at the Dec. 2, 2014 Cottonwood City Council meeting: Gabrielle Makuch, Ryan Young, Kirsten Conover, Jasmine Banks, Kayle Gordon, Riley McClellan, Charles Novak, Parker Kleck, Carrington Midkiff, Wyatt Midkiff, Sirilale Saengsawang, Krista Earl, Evan Snyder, Adult Representative Kirsten Hastings and alternates Gunner Tillemans, Ashley McCracken, Jayde Martell, and Sarah Ortiz.

CYAC meetings are open to the public. Agendas and minutes are available at <http://cottonwoodaz.gov/bcyouth.php>. CYAC has now prepped the Cottonwood Recreation Center’s roof for Santa’s landing. The Cottonwood Youth Advisory Commission has gotten the go ahead from Santa to put up the Angle Tree. Santa’s Chief Flight Officer has confirmed he will be ...landing here in Cottonwood high atop the gables of the Cottonwood Recreation Center on December 18, and 19. At this point, depending on weather in the North Pole we are expecting Santa at 5:00 p.m. and staying until 7:00 p.m. each day.



The City of Cottonwood’s elves will provide refreshments so come visit Santa, enjoy hot chocolate and a cookie. Professional photograph available: \$4.00 for first child, \$3.00 for each additional.

Besides advising the City Council, the youth participate in various community activities. In March they participated in the Mayor’s March a Mile for Meals. The event was held in an effort to raise money to help provide nutritious meals for our communities’ senior citizens living below the poverty level. The 2-mile walk ended with a tasty pancake and sausage breakfast prepared by the Clarkdale-Verde Kiwanis Club.

In April the Cottonwood Youth Advisory Commission endured the cold rain and winds to help lend a hand at the City of Cottonwood’s Community Wide Clean Up. The event, held at 1142 W Mingus Avenue, was held to help residents clean up debris and create a defensible space around their home prior to fire season. The Youth Commission arrived bright and early to help local residents unload and dispose of unwanted items and

trash from their vehicles. Among the items accepted were bagged trash, household appliances, furniture and yard trimmings. Other items such as mattresses, televisions and tires were also accepted for a small fee.

In April the Youth Advisory Commission also attended Cottonwood's annual Easter Egg hunt. They arrived bright and early to lend a hand setting up and preparing for the big event. Afterwards, Past President Shaylor Dowling donned the Easter Bunny costume to be available for kids and parents who wanted their picture taken. Lots of smiles and good times were had. More than 52 pictures were taken and monies were raised to support community needs of the Verde Valley.

Also in March, the Cottonwood Youth Advisory Commission attended MyFest, held at Tempe Beach Park. The event was put together by MY LIFE, a youth leadership group, (Magellan Youth Leaders Inspiring Future Empowerment) which consists of more than 100 youth, ages 13 to 23, who have experience with mental health, substance abuse, juvenile justice and/or foster care-related issues. MyFest was an all-day event that showcased live entertainment from local bands and rappers, a graffiti art competition, and a hip hop dance battle stage. It was a venue where youth could overcome their personal challenges with support from their peers, develop and hone their leadership skills, and use their voices to inspire and create positive change for themselves and others in the community. MY LIFE not only provides a venue where youth can express themselves, but also focuses on helping youth individually and has been beneficial to programs and systems that serve youth by bringing about changes to improve care for youth in Arizona and across the nation.

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