

## CLARK COUNTY



## COMMISSION

May 21, 2011

Dear Youth Leader:

Hello. We are seeking youth from all walks of life to become members of an action oriented advisory board, the Clark County Youth Commission. Our group is made up of 30 youth from throughout Clark County who work with the Clark County Board of County Commissioners, county departments and community organizations to:

- Advise and make recommendations about the work these groups do that has an impact on youth. In the last two years the County Commissioners asked us to research social networking and parks and recreation policies in Clark County and make recommendations.
- Identify issues and concerns of youth and take action. Our group identifies key issues of concern and develops a Youth-Driven Project that helps support, or bring awareness to a cause.
- Provide leadership opportunities for youth. We offer our members intensive and fun leadership training opportunities beginning with a retreat in late summer. We also work to create opportunities for other youth in Clark County.

**WE ARE SEEKING YOUTH FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO JOIN THIS EFFORT, AND WE NEED YOUR HELP.**

**Between now and June 17, 2011,** we are actively recruiting for Youth Commission members. The Youth Commission is continuously striving to be more representative of the diversity of youth that live in our county.

Right now we are accepting applications to fill vacancies such as: **at-large positions** representing any part of Clark County; positions from the following school districts – **Camas, Ridgefield, Washougal, and Woodland School Districts (Note: the Woodland applicants must come from the part of Woodland that is within Clark County)** and positions for youth with **no previous leadership experience**. Please feel free to use the enclosed materials to inform the youth in your school or whom you work with about this opportunity.

We really appreciate your help and want to let you know we're also here to help; please call us if you have questions or need additional materials. The best way to contact us is by calling (360) 397-2130, ext. 5133.

Thank you for your help,

***The Clark County Youth Commission***

# Clark County *Youth Commission*

## **What do we do?**

*The Youth Commission* actively serves as a *voice for youth* in Clark County.

- ⇒ We *advise and make recommendations* to the Clark County Board of County Commissioners, county departments and community organizations about the work they do that relates to and has an impact on youth;
- ⇒ We *identify issues and concerns* important to youth and *take action* on those issues and concerns.
- ⇒ We *educate* the community about how to build strong youth-adult partnerships.
- ⇒ We *provide leadership opportunities* for youth.

## **Who are we?**

The Clark County Youth Commission is a group of *30 youth* ranging in ages from *11-19*. *Eighteen* youth represent middle and high school students from each of the 9 school districts in Clark County, *ten* of the youth are at-large, and *two* of the youth are new leaders. Members serve for a one-year term, but can recommit to serve multiple years. The Youth Commission seeks to be a *representative of all youth* living in Clark County.

## **So you want to be a member?**

To become a Youth Commission member you need to complete an application and participate in an interview. But before you do it's important to know *what's expected* so you can make sure you have the time and it's the right thing for you! An active Youth Commission member:

- ⇒ Works on Youth Commission projects, assignments and subcommittees. The Commission has special projects and assignments to do throughout the year that require their time outside of the regular meeting time. We need *members' help* to get this work done. **It requires approximately 4-12 hours work in a month.**
- ⇒ Participates in the meetings by *voicing their ideas and opinions* and being prepared. We know it takes time for some people to feel comfortable doing these kind of things, so if you think you really would like to but not quite sure if you can, apply and we'll see if we can help you get there.
- ⇒ Is a resource to the Commission. Members *contribute* their skills and strengths to help the Commission get their work done.
- ⇒ Represents the Youth Commission in the community and at their school – such as speaking to community groups about Youth Commission work or getting information to and from students or teachers.
- ⇒ Attends meetings, both the regular meetings and other meetings as agreed to and as scheduled. The regular meeting is 2 Thursdays per month from 6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.; each meeting is 2 hours for a total of 4 hours. Special projects, assignments, and subcommittee work adds another 2-4 hours per month.

**All applicants must be available to interview in the week of June 27 and to attend a mandatory overnight retreat August 16-18, 2011.**

Clark County **Youth Commission**  
**APPLICATION**

Please complete and mail/fax to the address/number noted on the back of this form **no later than June 17, 2011**. If you need more space, please feel free to attach an additional sheet of paper and attach it to this form. Thanks.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Contact Information: # \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Call 1<sup>st</sup> Call 2<sup>nd</sup>

What's the best time of day to reach you? \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex (F)  (M)  (Optional)  
Race: \_\_\_\_\_ (Optional)

1. Do you go to school?  yes, what school are you enrolled in for next year? \_\_\_\_\_  no.  
 what grade are you entering next year? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Are you employed?  yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_  no.

3. What are your reasons for wanting to join the Youth Commission?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Name up to three things that could be done in Clark County to make it a better place to live?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Name three things you think you are good at or do the best?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. If three of your friends were to describe you what would they say?

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7. What is your favorite thing to do in your spare time, in non-school hours?

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8. If you have a lot of other commitments (work, after-school activities, sports etc.) how are you able to make time for the Commission?

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9. What are your future plans?

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10. What else would you like us to know about you?

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I am able to attend the retreat August 16-18, 2011

**Signed:**

**Date:**

Please **mail** this application to:

Clark County  
Dept of Community Services  
PO Box 5000  
Vancouver, WA 98666-5000  
Attn: YOUTH COMMISSION

or bring this application to:

Street Address: Clark County Youth House  
1012 Esther Street  
Vancouver, WA 98660

**Fax to:** 397-2164 (remember to **fax both sides**)

**Questions:** Please contact Elizabeth Hill, program coordinator for the Youth Commission, at (360) 397-2130, ext. 5133 or at [elizabeth.hill@clark.wa.gov](mailto:elizabeth.hill@clark.wa.gov)