

A youth advisory committee is a group of youth organized to plan activities or events with the assistance of an adult advisor. Also known as youth advisory boards, teen advisory boards, teen advisory groups, youth advisory councils and other similar names, these groups are growing in popularity especially in city libraries.

This committee has been established to plan fun community activities for teens living in Greene County, Indiana. If you are an area youth that has ideas about social, recreational, or volunteer activities for the area, please submit an application, we would love to hear from you.

The Youth SOARS advisory committee will consist of 15 junior high and high school aged youth who reside in Greene County. There will be 2 members chosen to represent each Greene County school district and an additional 5 at-large members that can include home schooled students. These members will be selected to ensure the committee represents a variety of ages, genders, academic backgrounds, and interests. A variety of committee members is necessary, so that the activities planned will be diverse and offer something of interest to all of the youth in the community.

The first group of committee members will be appointed to their positions. This group will serve in their positions from February 2009 – June 2009. Then annually in July, prior to the start of a new school year, the adult advisor will nominate new committee members. The current committee will vote to approve these nominations. Committee members must be of junior high or high school age and must reside in Greene County. If a member graduates, they will not be allowed to serve on the committee the following year. If a member relocates from the area, their seat will become vacant and the adult advisor will appoint a new member to serve for the duration of the year.

Committee members have responsibilities that must be met while holding their positions. There will be monthly meetings of the committee planned and committee members must commit to attending the meetings. If members miss multiple consecutive meetings or more than an allowed number of meetings during the year they can be removed from the committee. This is to ensure that all members are participating and no members are unduly burdened. All members also must serve on a subcommittee – examples are event planning, fundraising, newsletter, and website maintenance. There must be a minimum of 2 members on each subcommittee. The subcommittee's will be self-organizing and can determine how often they need to meet and by what means. We encourage utilizing electronic means whenever possible and will allow the groups to create private discussion areas as well as providing a project management utility so groups can track progress on any activities they are working on.

There are numerous benefits to those serving on the committee. Serving on the committee will help the youth develop both leadership skills and teamwork. The members will also meet youth from other areas of the county and make new friends. Those involved will get to serve their community and plan youth oriented activities while having fun. Committee members also have the ability to add this service to employment and college applications.

The committee will be tasked with suggesting and planning activities for the youth of the community that represent a wide variety of interests. Events will be approved by an adult advisor, but the majority of the planning and organization will be done by the committee members.

All youth in Greene County are invited to participate in the planned events. There is no membership requirement or fee for membership. Event and trip fees may be necessary depending upon the activity. If fees are necessary, they will be kept as affordable as possible.

If you have any other questions about what the committee, feel free to email [admin@youthsoars.org](mailto:admin@youthsoars.org) for prompt answers.