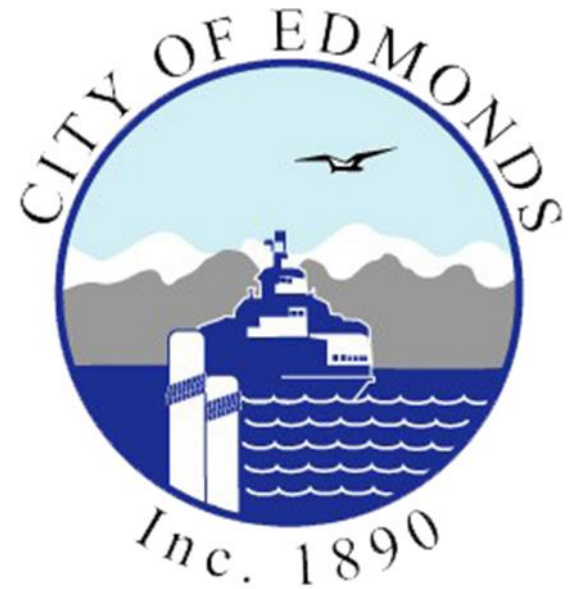


City Of Edmonds Youth Commission



Casey Colley (she/her)
Youth Commission Coordinator
Casey.Colley@edmondswa.gov 425.563.9423 (direct)

Youth Commission Background



- June 2018 - Council established City's first Youth Commission
- Council interviewed and appointed applicants: December 2018, January 2019, June 2019

- **Goal:** *to provide a place for teenagers to advocate for themselves and to bring attention to issues that affect them; while providing youth an opportunity to gain governing skills; accountability and learn the structure of local government.*

- **Intent:** *to draft policy proposals to share with the Mayor and the City Council; organize forums of Edmonds youth to better educate the City about the opinions of youth on civic issues and to recognize accomplishments of youth and promote the value of youth in our community.*

Our Mission

City of Edmonds Youth Commission is a youth led commission whose mission is to protect, preserve, and enhance the quality of life for Edmonds youth by advising City Council and the public on issues relating to youth policies, programs, and opportunities.



Our Commission has 11 seats that students apply for. Eligibility requires they are entering grades 9-12 or of equivalent age if not in traditional school. They also must live within the city limits of the City of Edmonds. We have 4 leadership positions: Chair, Co-chair, Secretary and Communications Manager.

Our Powers & Duties



1. Serve as an advocate for youth needs and improvement in youth policies, directly engaging the community in the process;
2. Drafting policy proposals on topics of its choosing and presenting these proposals to the Mayor and the City Council;
3. Organizing forums of Edmonds youth to better educate the City about the opinions of youth on civic issues affecting both their communities and the city at large;
4. Recognize accomplishments of children and youth and promote the value of youth in our community; and
5. Providing an annual report to the City Council about the Commission's activities.

2019

The Edmonds Youth Commission took the first year to gain a footing. Learning how to plan successful events, interact with the community, reach out to the press, and lead productive meetings. None of the Commissioners had been seated on a volunteer commission before, this took practice.



2019

Youth Forums: Data, better youth representation, opportunities for student involvement without being seated on the commission

- The most popular topics: LGBTQ+ Issues, Mental Health, Diversity/Racism
- The most requested topics: Mental Health, Climate Change

Explored how to make Edmonds more youth-friendly with the Puget Sound Regional Council planning tool meeting

Connecting with the Edmonds Diversity Commission

Most effective advertising tool

- Word of mouth
- School
- Instagram



2020



Supported the City of Edmonds Climate Action Plan

Multiple volunteer projects throughout the City

Adjusting to online meetings and struggling with youth engagement

Was approved to start an Instagram account for the commission

Adjustment of the Youth Commission ordinances presented to City Council for approval

Ordinance Amendments



Recommendation:

Expand term from 1-year to 2-years – Commissioners need more time.

- It takes more than one year to have the kind of impact these incredible students aspire to have
- Having current members re-apply takes time away from their ability to complete spring / summer projects for the Youth Commission

Proposed Solution:

Focus recruitment on incoming sophomores and Juniors; automatically place students into 2-year terms – eliminating the need to reapply if returning and in good standing

Ordinance Amendments



Recommendation:

Align Commission activity with academic calendar – Summer is down time for family, vacation and mental break

- Assembling the Youth Commission in July and August was proven difficult (often due to family vacations not within the Youth Commissioners control)
- Difficult to get a quorum, difficult to make significant progress on projects. Further, most of their outreach is to peers, who are also not in school

Proposed Solution:

Meet the first and third Wednesday of each month September – June. July and August meetings will be considered Special Meetings

Ordinance Amendments



Recommendation:

Recruitment change from Spring to Fall - Fall recruiting better than Spring

- Spring time is very busy for students with finals, prom, theater presentations, graduation prep and so much more
- Recruiting and seating members in June, right before Summer break is an awkward start to their experience
- It is difficult to kick off a great project or capitalize on momentum

Proposed Solution:

Recruit when school starts up, students are picking clubs to join and signing up for extracurricular activities. Seat members in October; will lose some to graduation but will enable a school year of productivity.

2021

Pronoun inclusion presentation and request—approved!

Earth day

PSRC

Participated in police chief selection

Collaborated with then councilmember Distelhorst on suicide prevention month

Networking with: Human Services, Diversity Commission, ESD School Psychologist, ESD Superintendent's Cabinet, Climate Protection, Fairvote WA Representatives, & Climate Action Plan Representatives



2022



Added communications manager position to the leadership team

PROS plan participation

Released a statement on the status of the strEATeries

Edmonds Food Bank volunteering every Monday

Partnership for Earth Day beach cleanup event

Attended Watts Labor Action Committee and

Office Of Equity Task Force meeting



2023

Youth forum event at the Waterfront Center

Established regular check-ins with the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Commission

Spoke with Michelle Li about the May Book Project

Established oversight of City Council agenda

Partnership for Earth Day beach cleanup event

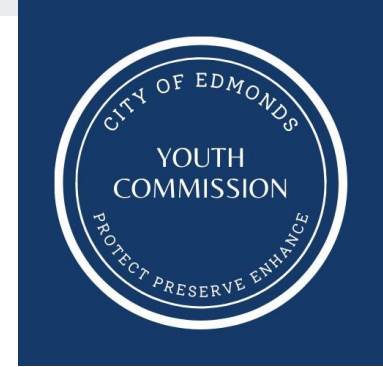
Hosted an ivy pull & park cleanup at Pineridge Park

Growing IG presence, content & youth resources

Had presenters from Domestic Violence Services of
Snohomish County, Climate Action Plan with
the Planning Department, DEIA Commission



2024



Designed a new logo

Planning department came to one of our meetings in October & April regarding Landmark 99 project and Comprehensive Plan

Designed Sweatshirts

Speed Talking with seniors event collaborating with Waterfront Center

Talking with Community Transit

Partnership for Earth Day

Brought back the Youth Invasive Ivy Pull volunteer opportunity

Increasing Instagram Content & Outreach

Follow us on Instagram

@edmondseyouthcommission

If you know any youth entering grades 9-12 that lives within the City of Edmonds city limits encourage them to apply this August & September!

Casey Colley (she/her)
Youth Commission Coordinator
Parks, Recreation & Human Services
Frances Anderson Center
700 Main Street Edmonds WA 98020
Casey.Colley@edmondswa.gov 425.563.9423 (direct)

YOUTH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

PINERIDGE PARK INVASIVE IVY REMOVAL

Age 13+

Earn service hours

light snacks provided!

MAY 18, 2024 | 10 A.M. – 12
PINERIDGE PARK, 20330 83RD AVE W,
EDMONDS, WA 98028

