



# Make a difference!

## 1. WHAT IS THE YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL?

The Youth Action Council (YAC) consists of a group of teens age 13 to 18 who voice the opinion of teens within the community. This program helps develop the tools necessary for teens to:

- Build leadership skills and take responsibility in a variety of areas
- Explore and identify issues and concerns important to teens
- Communicate issues and challenges to the Community & Recreation Services Department
- Promote mutual respect, understanding, and communication with teens of all cultures and backgrounds
- Organize special events for the community. YAC members organize annual special events such as the 50+ Ball, Youth Leadership Morgan Hill, Regional YAC Attack Youth Conference and participate in on going Teen Center activities.

YAC Members also participate in community events organized by the Recreation department such as:

- Get Fit
- Presentations to the City Council
- Monthly Teen Center events
- Morgan Hill Library events and more!

## **2. YAC MEMBERS ARE DEVELOPMENTAL ASSET BUILDERS**

YAC implements the 41 Developmental Asset frame work so youth and teens are better equipped for a successful future away from violence, gangs, alcohol and drug abuse, and other social challenges.

To learn more about the Developmental Assets, visit the Project Cornerstone website, <http://www.projectcornerstone.org>.

## **3. YAC RECRUITMENT**

All students interested in becoming a YAC Member need to apply to the Youth Leadership Morgan Hill (YLMH) Program in July.

YAC Applications will be handed out to the YLMH students on the 1st day of the program and on the 2nd day there will be a Parent Orientation. The application must be submitted on the 3rd day of YLMH in order to receive an appointment for an interview on the 4th day.

Terms of office are determined by the youth's grade level in school (one year for seniors in high school).

All Morgan Hill teens who wish to make a difference and be a voice for the youth in our community are encouraged to apply.

YLMH registration packets are available at the Centennial Recreation Center/Teen Center and the Community and Cultural Center in March.

## **4. HOW DO I BECOME A YAC MEMBER?**

You can become a YAC Member by meeting the following requirements:

- Must be a resident of the City of Morgan Hill, San Martin, or an enrolled student in the Morgan Hill Unified School District.
- Must be 13 by July 1st and not older than 18.
- Commit time and energy. A minimum of 6 hours each month including mandatory monthly meetings, YAC Socials, outgoing programs in the Teen Center, and community events. It will be the

members' choice to decide what events or programs they wish to sign up for to complete the required time.

- Must be available during the year from September to May.
- Support the City of Morgan Hill Recreation and Community Services Department's vision statement which is "to continuously provide quality facilities and services that enrich our community through recreational activities, programs and events."
- Promote and support the 41 Developmental Assets through his/her own actions while working as a member of this council.
- Represent, communicate, and build relationships with the youth of Morgan Hill by talking and listening to them, and sharing their thoughts and ideas at the monthly YAC meetings.
- YAC requires parents/legal guardians' participation in the YAC Parent Social (2 hours), 50+ Ball (8 hours in addition to meetings), and any other YAC special events throughout the year (2 -8 hours). Exceptions can be discussed case by case.

## 5. GET INVOLVED

YAC monthly meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month (except for the third Tuesday in September and January) at 5:30 pm at the Centennial Recreation Center (CRC) Meeting Room (171 W. Edmundson Avenue). For more information about YAC, visit:

<http://www.morganhill.ca.gov/273/Youth-Action-Council>

**For further information or to sponsor a YAC Annual event, please contact: Chiquy Mejía, YAC Advisor & Youth Development Coordinator [chiquy.mejia@mhcrc.com](mailto:chiquy.mejia@mhcrc.com) or 408.310.4253**

