



2009/2010 Annual Report

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Mission and Vision

Our vision is to give teens a voice in our community.

Our mission is to demonstrate to the community that teens are valuable assets and care about issues that affect teens and all citizens. We seek to raise awareness of issues important to teens and enable their voices to be heard. We hope to accomplish this by educating the community about who we are through events, community service, surveys, forums, and serving as a channel and resource for the benefit of all teens, thus creating a win-win situation that provides common ground for teens and adults.

Letter to the Community

Thank you for expressing an interest in the Steamboat Springs Teen Council.

In only our fourth year of existence the council is extremely proud of all of our accomplishments and we are excited for future endeavors.

The Teen Council is made up of sixteen young adults between the ages of 14 and 18. We chose to join Teen Council because of a genuine interest in serving the City of Steamboat Springs and to be representatives for the teens in our community. We hope to act as the official advisory board to our elected officials on all relevant youth policies. Ultimately our goal is to provide a powerful voice in the community so that teen perspectives are heard and satisfied, instead of being held up in the intimidating minutia of city politics.

Our mission is to give teens a voice in our community. Our charge is to demonstrate that teens are valuable assets and that they care about matters that affect teens and the community. We seek to raise awareness of issues important to teens and enable their voices to be heard. We hope to accomplish this by educating the community about who we are through events, community service, surveys, forums, and to serve as a channel and resource for the benefit of all teens, thus creating a win-win situation that provides common ground for teens and adults.

We serve to:

- Identify the unmet needs of youth in the City of Steamboat Springs;
- Advocate for youth policies by making recommendations to City Council;
- Comment and make recommendations to City Council or any other decision making group on any and all youth related matters;
- Provide an avenue of expression and comment for teens.

We humbly present our annual report to you.

In service,

Austin Ritzel
2009/2010 President
Steamboat Springs Teen Council

2009/2010 Council Officers



Austin Ritzel, President Junior, Steamboat Springs High School
Interests: World Issues, Wrestling, Politics
Issues: Curbing Teen Drinking/Drug Use, Teen Activities



Matthia Duryea, Vice President Senior, Steamboat Springs High School
Interests: Volleyball, Basketball, Singing
Issues: Teen Involvement and Teen Activities



Shane McLean, Secretary Senior, Lowell Whiteman School
Interests: Skiing, Meditation, Hop Scotch, Art
Issues: Stress Management for Teens and the Environment



Maria Hillenbrand, Public Relations Junior, Lowell Whiteman School
Interests: Skiing, Soccer, Tennis
Issues: City Growth and Development

2009/2010 Council Members



Chloe Banning Senior, Lowell Whiteman School
Interests: Snowboarding, Flute, Hockey
Issues: Affordable Teen Activities, Skate Park, Teen Involvement in the Community



Codi Coghlan Freshman, Steamboat Springs High School
Interests: Writing, Art, Skiing
Issues: Environment, Poverty, Animal Abuse, Racism



Shelby Dyer Junior, Lowell Whiteman School
Interests: Skiing, Dancing, Kayaking, Traveling, the Environment
Issues: Having a more environmentally friendly city



Charlotte Letson Senior, Steamboat Springs High School
Interests: Choir, Cheerleading, Student Council
Issues: Activities for Teens



Penn Lukens Freshman, Steamboat Springs High School
Interests: Skiing, Lacrosse
Issues: City Growth, Activities for Teenagers



Anna Marno Senior, Lowell Whiteman School
Interests: Ski Racing, Horseback Riding, Mountain Biking and Backpacking
Issues: Helping with Green Issues



Owen McIntosh Sophomore, Steamboat Springs High School
Interests: Traveling, Learning Languages (Chinese)
Issues: Drug Use, Hunger, Water Distribution



Nick Parnell Senior, Steamboat Springs High School
Interests: Playing Guitar, Counseling Younger Kids, Longboarding
Issues: Tobacco Use on School Grounds, Diversity



Mia Quick Senior, Steamboat Springs High School
Interests: Soccer, Traveling, Reading, Baking, Color Coding
Issues: Environment, Recreation Opportunities, Community Service



Sam Samlowski Freshman, Steamboat Springs High School
Interests: Golf, Lacrosse, Archery, Baking, Friends, Long Walks on the Beach
Issues: Drug Use, Participation in School Activities, a “Cleaner” Steamboat



Maggie Stanford Sophomore, Steamboat Springs High School
Interests: Dance and Volleyball
Issues: Community Service



Allison Williams Freshman, Steamboat Springs High School
Interests: Volleyball, Basketball, Tennis, Dance, Snowboarding
Issues: The Teen Space, Drugs in School and the Community

Teen Council Facilitators



Brooke Lightner, City of Steamboat Springs, Teen Programs Coordinator
Interests: Soccer, Snowboarding, Reading, Knitting and Spreadsheets
Issues: Teens as assets to the community



Dervla Lacy, Grand Futures Prevention Coalition, Routt County Director
Interests: Skiing, Hiking, Traveling, Reading and Ice Cream
Issues: Providing positive adult role models and keeping youth ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs) free

History

Spring of 2007—Grand Futures Prevention Coalition(GFPC) and the City of Steamboat Springs Teen Programs(TP) initiated focus groups with students to address their perception that they “lack non parent adult role models” and the “community does not value youth,” according to the 2005 Search Institute: Profile Of Our Youth survey.

Fall of 2007—Regular meetings began during the Steamboat Springs High School’s lunch hour. Four students from the (SSHS) Leadership class were assigned to attend meetings and contribute to the council’s development.

October 2007—Staff from GFPC and the City of Steamboat Springs Teen Programs attended the Teen Team Youth Summit in Windsor, Colorado to network with Teen Councils from across the state and gather information and resources.

January 2008— Four members of Teen Council travelled to Greeley to attend and observe an official teen council meeting. The students brought their observations back to the group for reference in creating an application and recruiting process.

March 2008—Official Steamboat Springs Teen Council (SSTC) meetings moved outside of SSHS, to include students from Lowell Whiteman School, Christian Heritage and the Steamboat Springs Middle School in an effort to create a council reflective of the larger teen community. SSTC designed a logo, developed a mission and vision statement, established goals and prepared for presentations to the community.

Fall 2008—Officers were elected for the SSTC 2008/2009 term.

December 2008—Teen Council began the planning process to conduct a comprehensive survey of peers in order to identify goals and priorities for Council. SSTC began drafting survey questions and concepts, as well as planning for the execution of this survey to students at Lowell Whiteman High School and Steamboat Springs High School.

January 2009—Teen Council disseminated the Teen Survey to approximately 400 teens at Lowell Whiteman School and Steamboat Springs High School.

March 2009—Results of the Teen Council survey were compiled by OMNI Institute in Denver and provided to Teen Council. Teen Council also presented to the Human Resource Coalition and Parks and Recreation Commission on its recent accomplishments.

April 2009—Teen Council representatives spoke in favor of the “Ice Arena Bump Out Project” at City Council as a designated teen space. At that meeting City Council decided to delegate funds to the design of the space.

May 2009—Teen Council members summarized results of the Teen Survey. SSTC extended invitations to new members, while at the same time celebrated the graduation of some of its founding members. Officers were elected for the 2009/2010 term.

History Continued

September 2009—Teen Council 09-10 term began its third full year.

Fall 2009—Teen Council toured facilities and met with leaders of the Boys and Girls Club of Steamboat Springs and City Council Member Walter Magill to discuss ideas for a teen space.

Winter 2010—Teen Council members met and reviewed plans for designated teen spaces through Sk8 Church and the City of Steamboat Springs Ice Arena Bump Out Project. Teen Council members were interviewed and quoted in the Steamboat Pilot and Today for their work related to developing a designated teen space. Council members also marched in the Winter Carnival Parade to raise awareness about Teen Council.

Spring 2010—Teen Council members presented the Teen Survey results to various stakeholders in our community, including City Council, Routt County Commissioners, Steamboat Springs School District Board, Lowell Whiteman School Faculty and Staff, Routt County Human Resource Coalition, and the Parks and Recreation Commission. Council members recruited new members for 2010-2011 from Christian Heritage School, Steamboat Springs Middle and High Schools, Lowell Whiteman School, Lowell Whiteman Primary School, and the Yampa Valley School.

May 2010—Teen Council members helped to facilitate the first juvenile justice symposium in Routt County which aimed to provide information on the connection between youth substance use and involvement with the juvenile justice system, as well as the short and long-term consequences of association in the system. Council members also developed a “Teen Laws and Rights” resource for teens detailing important information on teens’ rights related to commonly enforced laws. Officers were elected for the 2010-2011 Teen Council term.

June 2010—Teen Council members celebrated the end of the year with a barbeque to wish our graduating seniors well and welcome our new recruits for 2010-2011 Council.

Steamboat Springs Teen Council Goals

- Increase the awareness of Teen Council, it's vision, mission and objectives;
- Assist in the process of getting a dedicated teen space; and
- Provide education to teens and adults alike within the community surrounding teen issues, including underage drinking and drug use.

Steamboat Springs Teen Council Accomplishments

Advised, toured and provided feedback to the Boys and Girls Club of Steamboat Springs and met with City Council Member Walter Magill related to developing a designated teen space.

Brainstormed and developed a comprehensive list of ideas and concepts, including a detailed blue print for a designated teen space, and shared this list with various interested parties.

Advised, toured, and provided feedback on the development of the SK8 Church teen space.

Established three working Committees (PR/Communications, Events & Education), elected Committee Chairs, and created task lists and deadlines for each committee.

Reviewed plans and provided input related to the City of Steamboat Springs Ice Arena Bump Out Project. Teen Council members spoke in favor of this project at City Council meetings.

Provided community service for the City of Steamboat Springs Holiday Party.

Provided community service for the Routt County United Way Christmas Wishes Program.

Disseminated survey results in public presentations to Steamboat Springs City Council, Routt County Commissioners, Steamboat Springs School District Board, Lowell Whiteman Faculty and Staff, Human Resource Coalition, and the City of Steamboat Springs Parks and Recreation Commission.

Assisted with the Live Well grant (Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurses Association) by facilitating and gathering survey data from LWS and SSSH students related to eating and exercise habits.

Participated in the John Underwood, Founder and President of the American Athletic Institute, tailored community presentations related to the effects of drugs and alcohol on the body, brain and development of adolescents and adolescent athletes.

Accomplishments Continued

Conducted a tobacco and chew awareness and prevention campaign for National Kick Butts Day, developing posters to disseminate throughout SSHS in coordination with the VNA.

Participated and coordinated Earth Hour activities for SSHS and LWS.

Recruited new members for 2010-2011 Term from Christian Heritage School, Steamboat Springs Middle School, Steamboat Springs High School, Yampa Valley Alternative School, Lowell Whiteman School and Lowell Whiteman Primary School.

Researched and developed a “Teen Laws and Rights” resource for teens on Frequently Asked Questions related to traffic stops, drivers license, DUIs, and other important information for teens.

Helped to facilitate and lead the first Juvenile Justice Symposium in Routt County in collaboration with Grand Futures Prevention Coalition, 14th Judicial District Attorney’s Office, Steamboat Springs High School Leadership Class, Routt County Diversion, and other community partners involved in the juvenile justice system.

Engaged in various community service projects including Community Cultivation, Routt County United Way events, VNA, Sk8 Church, Live Well, Yampa Valley Science School, City of Steamboat Springs Annual Holiday Party, and Rural Philanthropy Days, completing over 100 service hours.

Received press coverage from the Steamboat Pilot and Today for Earth Day activities, Ice Arena Bump Out project, SK8 Church and the Juvenile Justice Symposium.

Recreated together, including volleyball, slack lining, bowling and EATING.

Teen Council Reflections

What did you like best about Teen Council this past year?

“I liked the guest speakers who came and told us about various important issues.”

“I liked going to the City Council meeting and becoming closer to an awesome group of teens and adults.”

“The best thing I liked about teen council this year was the different events and things we did like the parade and the juvenile justice symposium.”

“The community of positive people, the opportunity to be a part of the community & decisions that affect me and my age group. The opportunity to raise my voice and bring up ideas and topics I am interested in.”

“Solving issues as a team; having fun; meeting new people.”

“I liked the group dynamic & everyone's enthusiasm about our projects.”

“Volunteering at the Holiday Party & Winter Carnival Parade & Juvenile Justice Symposium.”

“I enjoyed the environment we were in and how I was given more responsibility than last year.”

“I enjoyed the opportunity to represent teens in my community and better the community as a whole.”

“I liked how we helped the town be better for teenagers.”

“I enjoyed being able to see how formal meetings are ran. Also knowing about what is going on in the community for teens and in general.”

“There were a few things that I really liked about Teen Council this year. Doing our presentations really made me happy. The people who we presented to were extremely interested. Also our help with Sk8 Church was really neat. The lounge they are putting up is very cool.”

“I enjoyed working with SK8 Church, Parks and Recreation, etc. and interacting with local organizations.”

“What Teen Council accomplishment are you most proud of?”

“I am most proud of completing the plan for a teen space and working towards its completion.”

“I am most proud of coming so far with figuring out how to find a teen space and what we want in it.”

“Getting money allocated for the design of the Bump Out Project; talking to so many organizations; putting together teen laws & rights.”

“The Juvenile Justice Symposium.”

“Getting the money for the design of the Ice Arena Bump Out project, making that happen.”

“Doing community service; Kick Butts Campaign; Juvenile Justice Symposium.”

“I am most proud of helping with teen education on teen rights & consequences of underage drinking & drugs.”

“Presenting to City Council.”

“I am most proud of our progress in finding a teen space and waiting until we find the best option.”

“I am proud of our progress in finding a teen space.”

“I am most proud of coming super duper close to a teen space.”

“Being part of the teen justice symposium and making appearances at City Council and larger community organizations.”

“The Teen Council accomplishment that I am most proud of is when we presented our views on the Ice Arena Bump Out Project to City Council. We had very good points and City Council decided to allocate money for the design of the project. It was really exciting to have that accomplishment.”

“I am proud of publishing an annual report and distributing it to the community.”

“Teen Council accomplished so much this year. I love that we are acting more and putting our voices out there when we have opinions. The relationships we build are fantastic & the time that we spend together is so fun.”

“Name one thing that you learned through Teen Council this year.”

“I learned about how formal meetings are run.”

“I learned that hookah (tobacco) is very offensive to the body! Way worse than I thought.”

“I learned that teens are incredibly important and adults in the community welcome our feedback and value our opinions. We CAN have a voice if we try to make a difference.”

“I learned that communication is the most important component of getting things done.”

“That we have powerful voices if we are given the right resources and support! We can change the world, anyone can.”

“To work as a team.”

“I learned to be more of a leader and good ways to tackle concerns.”

“I learned about teen rights and how to present in front of a council.”

“I learned how formal meetings proceed and some of the problems teens had that I never would have realized.”

“I learned a huge amount of leadership skills.”

“I learned some teen rights and how a council works.”

“I have learned how important it is to have a voice in the community. Teen Council also made me realize how important it is to have teen activities and projects for teens to do.”

“I have learned a lot of things on Teen Council this year. The most important thing I have learned is that things you put on take time and effort. You can have great ideas, but in order for them to go through you need to put a lot of work and effort into it.”

“I learned many facts about local use of tobacco and other drugs.”

Teen Council Funders

City of Steamboat Springs



Grand Futures Prevention Coalition



Colorado Division of Behavioral Health (DBH), Persistent Drunk Driving Fund



Steamboat Restaurant Group



Grand Futures Prevention Coalition, Routt County Funders

*As a program of GFPC, Teen Council may have received supplemental funding from various local and state general operating sources received by Grand Futures, including:

- Anschutz Family Foundation;
- Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Title V- Incentive Grants for Local Delinquency Prevention;
- Colorado Division of Behavioral Health, Colorado Prevention Partners;
- Craig-Scheckman Family Foundation, Youth Advocacy Project;
- Daniels Fund;
- Routt County Human Resource Coalition;
- Routt County United Way;
- SAMHSA Town Hall Meeting Stipend;
- United Methodist Church Foundation, Steamboat Springs;
- Yampa Valley Community Foundation;
- 14th Judicial District fines and costs; and
- Generous donations from local residents and businesses.



Rural Philanthropy Days, September 2009



Bowling at Snow Bowl, November 2009



Presenting to Steamboat Springs School District, January 2010



Slacklining, June 2010



Marching in the Winter Carnival Parade, February 2010



Presenting to City Council, April 2010



End of year BBQ, June 2010

Contact Us:

Teen Council meets the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month (September-May) at the Steamboat Springs Community Center at 6:15 p.m.

Meetings are open to the public.

For more information or to reach us:

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