

Takoma Park Youth Council Newsletter

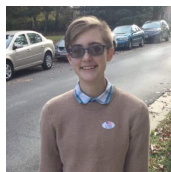
MEET THE YOUTH COUNCIL!



Kiran Kochar McCabe, Chairperson of the Youth Council, is a 16 year-old who lives in Ward 6 of Takoma Park and is a junior at Montgomery Blair High School. Kiran loves politics, theater, reading, and activism, and is loving being the Chairperson of the Takoma Park Youth Council. She is really interested in youth engagement in government and is excited to listen to everyone's ideas and feedback!



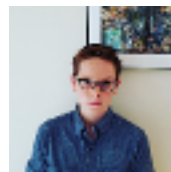
Emma Morganstein, Vice Chairperson of the Youth Council, is a 17 year-old who lives in Ward 1 of Takoma Park and is a junior at Montgomery Blair High School. Emma loves carpentry, politics, books and teaching. She loves being able to represent her fellow teens and fight for youth empowerment in local government.



Elliot Davey, City Council Liaison, is 16 years old and is a junior at Wheaton High School and lives in Ward 1. Elliot is a regular at Takoma Park City Council meetings and served as the Youth Vote Coordinator for Kate Stewart's mayoral campaign in 2017. Outside of Takoma Park, they love theater, music, and activism. Elliot hopes that during their time on the Youth Council, kids and youth can become more connected to Takoma Park government and inspired to fight for the things they want to change.



Adelaide Harris is a 16 year-old junior at Montgomery Blair High School, living in Ward 2. Her favorite color is pink, her favorite candy is licorice, and her favorite semi-local politician is Eleanor Holmes Norton. She's excited to work to make Takoma Park a more inclusive and environmentally friendly place.



George Ashford is 15 and a sophomore at Montgomery Blair High School. George loves politics, skiing, and music, and he is excited to be working on the first Takoma Park Youth Council. He wants to work toward more outreach from the Takoma Park government to students and youth and create programs to support the youth of Takoma Park in the ways that they need and desire.



Rachel Grupp is 13 and an 8th grader at Friends Community School in College Park. She is also the Youth Council representative for Ward 3. Rachel loves art, camping, social justice, and Takoma Park. Rachel is excited to be learning about her city government and to be working on issues that affect her city with the rest of the Youth Council.



Asha Henry is 14 and a freshman at Montgomery Blair High School. She is the first youth representative for Ward 6. She loves fencing, biology and spending time outside. She is excited to hear any suggestions to make Takoma Park a better place for youth.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Takoma Park Youth Council is dedicated to representing, promoting, and advocating for the interests of Takoma Park's diverse and enthusiastic young people. The Youth Council controls the content of this newsletter, the purpose of which is to inform the public of upcoming projects, initiatives and events, as well as of issues that the Council feels are important to Takoma Park's youth.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kiran Kochar McCabe
(Chairperson), Ward 6

Emma Morganstein (Vice
Chairperson), Ward 1

Elliot Davey, Ward 1

Adelaide Harris, Ward 2

George Ashford, Ward 2

Rachel Grupp, Ward 3

Asha Henry, Ward 6

Christiane Yimgnia (Police
Explorers Liason), Ward 4

Ashleigh Nugent (Advisor), Ward 2

UPDATES

BLAIR CLIMATE SUMMIT

On Monday, April 23, 130+ students from Blair, Paint Branch, Poolesville, Wilson, Whitman, Einstein, McLean and other high schools in the D.C.-Maryland-Virginia area gathered to hold a student-organized Summit to address the issue of climate change. Students met at the Silver Spring Civic Building to hear from 350.org founder Bill McKibben and Congressman Jamie Raskin, discussed issues central to climate change and the environment in their communities in breakout groups, and engaged with a panel of experts about climate change. This was intended to raise awareness of the dire threat posed by climate change and launch coordinated student action by giving students the skills and connections they need to testify, write letters, speak to elected officials and more.

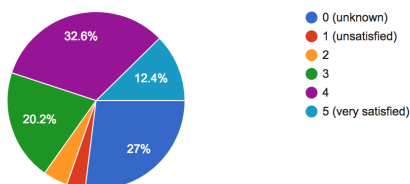
The breakout groups consisted of the following topics: Advocacy Training, Media and the Climate, Biodiversity and Climate Change, the Sunrise Movement, and more. These groups were created by students and were intended to capture their peers' interest and educate them about ways to take action. These student-organized workshops were run by experts from the community. Students also designed and painted a full-size parachute to display with the organization Parachutes for the Planet. The event was student organized and run and funded in part by the Blair Green Club.



Students participating in an activity at the Blair Climate Summit, photos courtesy of Twitter user @ElizabethLevien

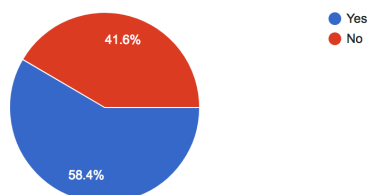
On a scale of one to five, how satisfied are you with the Takoma Park government?

89 responses



Before taking this survey, were you aware the Takoma Park Youth Council existed?

89 responses



Examples of responses from the youth survey conducted by the Youth Council

YOUTH SURVEY RESULTS

One of the first actions the council took was to create and send out a survey with the intent of gauging the issues that Takoma youth care about, the level of awareness they have about their local government and the Youth Council in particular, and their interest in participating in Takoma government. We found that most students were more or less in the middle in terms of their knowledge of Takoma government, but were overall somewhat unsatisfied with it. They were, however, satisfied with the services that the Takoma government provides to youth. The vast majority of students said they desired more outreach from Takoma to the youth, and a significant amount said they'd be interested in a Youth Town Hall. Overall, we were able to tell from this survey that students desire more outreach, and we have since been working on efforts to do so, such as beginning to plan a youth town hall.

NLC CONFERENCE

The Takoma Park Youth Council was fortunate enough to attend the National League of Cities Conference. We learned how to lobby and in general how to better serve our community. In this conference we also learned about how the different federal agencies help cities and what we can do to improve that relationship. We loved being able to attend this conference and are looking forward to using the new techniques we learned in the youth council.



Opening session of the NLC Conference, photo courtesy of the Youth Council's Twitter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

General:

Takoma Park's Independence Day Celebration will take place on Wednesday, July 4. The parade will take place at 10:00 AM on Maple Avenue, and the evening program will take place at 7:00 PM at the Lee Jordan Field. There will be fireworks following the evening program.

Ward 2:

The city of Takoma Park has begun construction on the Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape at the intersection of Ethan Allen and New Hampshire Avenues. The project includes traffic improvements, the addition of drains and erosion control measures, more sidewalks and pedestrian traffic lights, and the relocation of the bus stop located at the intersection.

Ward 6:

Due to the recent storms, several play structures in the Becca Lily Neighborhood Park have been damaged by fallen trees. The trees have been removed, and the structures will be rebuilt soon.



Community Health and Empowerment
through Education and Research

Logo of CHEER, which hosts the Takoma Park Lunch and Learn program

Camp Counselor Opportunity:

Interested in a summer job? Takoma Park Lunch and Learn has openings for paid counselors for a six-week summer program for elementary school children. Counselors would be mentoring campers, guiding water activities, teaching sports, and developing leadership skills. Camp Counselors must be 17+ years old by May 1, 2018, and applications are open until June 15, 2018. For more information, go to www.communitycheer.org/lunchandlearn or Contact Doris at dorisduarte@aol.com. Apply online at www.communitycheer.org/camp-counselor-position.

Youth Council Applications:

Calling all Takoma Park youth in grades 6-12! Applications for next year's Youth Council will open in the fall. Keep an eye out for that, and if you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please email us.

CONTACT US

Email: tkpkouthcouncil@takomaparkmd.gov

Twitter: @YouthTakoma

Fill out **this** form to keep in touch and get updates from us!

