



FACT SHEET

Need	With 25% of our county's population under the age of 18, young people are critical stakeholders. Further, as our next generation of leaders, today's students need to build civic literacy and leadership. What, and how, they learn <i>now</i> matters.
Solution	<p>The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council:</p> <p><i>Educates emerging leaders</i> through real-world experiences (the best way to learn) about how our governments and community work, the key issues, and how citizens and leaders collaborate to solve problems.</p> <p><i>Connects community leaders with a ready youth resource</i> for informed, thoughtful feedback that can be used to strengthen policy and decision-making.</p>
Program	<p>Youth council members are active through the year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Monthly student meetings and activities▪ Advise leaders on issues, policies, and decisions impacting K-12 students▪ Student-led activities including Youth Summit and Youth Candidate Forum▪ Service-learning, attend government meetings, participation in civic events▪ Follow news, conduct surveys, research data▪ Exploration of college, career, and civic life
Participants	<p>Diverse network of high school student leaders; open invitation to participate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 120 youth participated in 2014-15 activities▪ 3,000 contact hours of community education, leadership and service▪ 30+ high schools; live in neighborhoods across Charlotte-Mecklenburg
Partners	<p>The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council is a program of Charlotte nonprofit GenerationNation (formerly known as Kids Voting), in partnership with City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.</p> <p>The youth council is an expansion of a successful pilot project developed by GenerationNation and students in prior years. The city, county, and CMS adopted the program as the community's youth advisory council in 2013-14.</p>
Learn more	Amy Farrell info@GenerationNation.org 704-343-6999 www.generationnation.org/index.php/youthvoice