

## Using the Youth Council



The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council is a valuable resource, especially on issues, policies, and decisions impacting children and youth. Among other things, the youth council helps Charlotte-Mecklenburg to be a livable community that is:

- Welcoming, helping young people to learn about their community
- Prepared, educating a future workforce
- Resilient, developing a new generation of leaders
- Inclusive, giving young stakeholders a seat at the table (25% of Mecklenburg County population is under 18 years of age)

City, County, and CMS officials have committed to directly engage with the Youth Council, and actively and routinely solicit and use youth feedback and recommendations on current issues, strategic goals, budgets, and other relevant City/County/CMS work.

Suggested ways to utilize the Youth Council include:

- Refer current issues for youth council recommendations
- Solicit youth council feedback on budget priorities and strategic goals
- Use the youth council, and their communitywide networks, to highlight or share information about City/County/CMS initiatives and leadership
- Attend designated youth council meetings and activities
- Enable youth council members to explore public service careers through informal job shadowing of staff and officials
- Ask youth council members to serve on task forces and committees
- Invite youth council members to participate in civic events

*Note: Youth council members are eager to engage via dialogue, email, surveys, social media, and other methods. Due to school, sports, after school activities, work, family, and transportation considerations, youth council members' time is limited. While the Youth Council may not be able to address every issue or attend every meeting, we will work with you to effectively and efficiently maximize this resource for you.*

### **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council**

Through the youth council, a diverse network of student leaders meets regularly to learn about civic issues, leadership, and local government, and engage with and advise community leaders on issues, policies, and decisions impacting children and youth.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council is a program of GenerationNation in partnership with the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

### **Contact**

Amy Farrell | [amy@GenerationNation.org](mailto:amy@GenerationNation.org) | 704-343-6999



## FACT SHEET

<b>Need</b>	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.
<b>Solution</b>	<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>
<b>Program</b>	<p>Youth council members are active through the year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Monthly student meetings and activities</li><li>▪ Advise leaders on issues, policies, and decisions impacting K-12 students</li><li>▪ Student-led activities including Youth Summit and Youth Candidate Forum</li><li>▪ Service-learning, attend government meetings, participation in civic events</li><li>▪ Follow news, conduct surveys, research data</li><li>▪ Exploration of college, career, and civic life</li></ul>
<b>Participants</b>	<p>Diverse network of high school student leaders; open invitation to participate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 120 youth participated in 2014-15 activities</li><li>▪ 3,000 contact hours of community education, leadership and service</li><li>▪ 30+ high schools; live in neighborhoods across Charlotte-Mecklenburg</li></ul>
<b>Partners</b>	<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>
<b>Learn more</b>	Amy Farrell   <a href="mailto:info@GenerationNation.org">info@GenerationNation.org</a>   704-343-6999 <a href="http://www.generationnation.org/index.php/youthvoice">www.generationnation.org/index.php/youthvoice</a>