



CITY OF GLENDALE
5909 N Milwaukee River Parkway
Glendale, Wisconsin 53217

This meeting is in person, but will broadcast over Zoom.

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AGENDA-YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, May 4, 2026
7:00 PM

1. Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

2. New Business

The public may speak to the Council prior to the beginning of deliberations on these items, provided they have notified their respective Alderperson or the Mayor in advance of this meeting.

- a. Discussion: Teen Takeovers
- b. Grant Opportunity: YSA We Serve to Remember 9/11 Day of Service
- c. Discussion: Ideas for Next Year & Farewell

3. Adjournment

The Youth Council of Glendale currently holds meetings in person at City Hall, or an alternative physical location as allowed by the City Ordinance. As a courtesy to residents, Council meetings will also be made available live on Zoom virtual platform for viewing and possible participation. However, the City cannot guarantee the technology supporting the virtual viewing option will operate perfectly and continuously. The only way to guarantee the ability to offer public comment, or view the meeting uninterrupted, is to appear in person. If the Zoom platform fails, the meeting will continue as scheduled.



5909 N Milwaukee River Parkway
Glendale, Wisconsin 53217

SUBJECT: Discussion: Teen Takeovers

FROM: Benjamin Polony, Assistant to the Administrator

MEETING: May 4, 2026 Youth Council Meeting

MEETING DATE: May 4, 2026

FISCAL SUMMARY:

Budget Summary:

Budgeted Expenditure:

Budgeted Revenue:

STATUTORY REFERENCE:

Wisconsin Statutes:

Municipal Code:

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS: With the recent flurry of teen and street takeover events in Glendale, input is sought from the Youth Council with regards to how the community's youth can prevent activities like this in the future.

RECOMMENDATION:

ACTION REQUESTED:

ATTACHMENTS:

None



WE SERVE TO REMEMBER

11 Reflections and Ideas for
Engaging Youth in Service on
9/11 Day



To support you in planning service activities that honor and pay tribute to those who lost their lives on 9/11/01, their families, and those who rose in service in response to that tragedy, YSA offers eleven reflections and related project ideas to reimagine the date as one of engagement, service, and connection.

For adult champions of youth service, we encourage you to incorporate conversations about 9/11 Day, its impact—most young people have no first-hand memory of the occasion—and what parallels youth may notice today.



Reflections

1. People came together to rebuild community.
2. We became more aware of differences and more committed to understanding diversity.
3. We grew to understand the importance of meeting basic needs.
4. The event generated a renewed commitment to democracy.
5. We were linked to and embraced by a global community.
6. People supported one another with acts of kindness and good will.
7. We emerged with a new fervor and focus on a better future.
8. Everyday acts of service can be heroic.
9. We remember the many who answered the call to serve that day.
10. Our community organizations helped us to survive and thrive.
11. Despite fear and uncertainty, we still supported one another and our community.

Reflection 1:

People came together to rebuild communities.

Local Oral Histories

Interview local community members to collect and record oral histories about this day, based on their personal recollections. Prepare memory books to share the information you have collected.

Main Street

Meet with local business owners to learn about the history of “Main Street” in your community. Plan a “spiffin’ up” event, working together with the business owners and the Chamber of Commerce to clean up litter, remove graffiti, and plant fresh flower planter boxes along the street.

Commemorate and Honor

Plan a ceremony to commemorate the day and to honor the lives that were lost, in your community and around the nation. With the help of community leaders, design a memorial so that people can be reminded of the lessons of the day all year round.

Reflection 2:

We became more aware of differences and more committed to understanding diversity.

Cultural Heritage Fair

Learn about the history of immigration in your community or town. Organize a youth cultural heritage fair, inviting youth from different traditions within your community to share their culture and cuisine.

Community Accessibility

Research the history of the Individuals with Disabilities Act to understand the difficulties that people with disabilities may have in accessing public areas. Work with the Parks Department to ensure that public parks are accessible to all, by constructing and installing ramps at strategic locations.

Cross-Cultural Study Groups

Start a peer-to-peer tutoring program or study group that brings together local students and newly arrived immigrants and refugees. While focusing on academics, incorporate conversations to learn about one another and build new friendships.

Reflection 3:

We grew to understand the importance of meeting basic needs, such as food, clothing, and shelter.

Emergency Care Packages for the Homeless

Find out about homelessness in your community by contacting local shelters and organizations. Solicit donations of most-needed items and create emergency care packs for a homeless assistance organization.

Gleaning Produce

Explore the issue of hunger and its impact on your community. Contact area farmers to ask if you and your friends can collect and remove leftover fruits and vegetables from their fields to donate to a food bank.

Are You Ready?

Use the internet and interview local experts to learn what plans your community has in place for disaster preparedness and safety. Using this information, create and share a school or personal family emergency plan.

Reflection 4:

September 11, 2001 generated a renewed commitment to democracy.

Register New Voters

Research voter registration rules, including important dates, in your state. Work with administration at your school/university to host a registration drive or set up a table in a public space so people can register online or with a paper form.

Educate Voters

Each state has different rules in place for elections, including guidelines on early voting, absentee voting, ID requirements, and polling places. Create and distribute pamphlets that feature information for your voting precinct.

Who is on My Ballot?

Understanding where candidates stand on issues can help voters make informed decisions about which candidate's values best align with their own. Create a non-partisan guide to inform voters about candidates' positions on a wide range of issues.

Reflection 5:

We were linked to and embraced by a global community.

Network Around the Globe

Join an online international network, like Sister Cities or ePals, designed to connect students worldwide in a learning exchange.

Hunger Banquet

Research global poverty and world hunger, as well as hunger in your own community. Organize a “hunger banquet” to share with other youth and community members what you have learned. Consider incorporating dishes that are unique to the countries included in your research.

Make Your Voice Heard

Create a “Youth Voices Forum” that can be conducted via social media or another online platform that will help you connect with service-driven youth around the world. Talk about the issues facing your communities and brainstorm ways to address these issues. Focus on how these issues persist regardless of location and how connecting them to the Sustainable Development Goals could make a difference for youth all over the world.

Reflection 6:

People supported one another with acts of kindness and good will.

Books on Tape

Practice your reading speaking skills by recording books onto a digital format. Take into consideration your audience and select books appropriate for different groups including young children, people with disabilities, or seniors.

Senior Prom

Plan and coordinate a social afternoon for seniors at a local center, learning about the social and emotional elements of a healthy lifestyle for all ages. Find a fun way to incorporate things like music or games that were popular when seniors were the same age as the volunteers.

Cuddle Boxes

With help from your friends, family, or classmates, start a collection of stuffed animals and small toys for children's cuddle boxes. These can be decorated and given to children in hospitals and shelters to comfort and entertain them during their stay.

Reflection 7:

We emerged with a new fervor and focus on a better future.

Community Forum

Investigate a community problem in your city or town, and organize a community forum on that issue, making sure to include young people on your panel. Invite the media, and share the information with local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community groups.

Go Green

Learn about the environmental impact of energy use and explore ways individuals and organizations can reduce their energy consumption. Conduct an energy audit of your school, community center, library, or senior citizen center, and share ways to reduce energy use.

Service Fair

Plan a service fair in your community to help everyone come together around a selection of common causes. Consider a back-to-school drive, a blood drive, or a food drive. Plan to run multiple projects at once and use the event to recruit volunteers for future projects.

Reflection 8:

Everyday acts of service can be heroic.

Play On

As you learn to play an instrument or to sing, plan to share your musical talents with others by providing free lessons or a concert at a local school, community center, or senior center.

It's All in the Game

Share your love of a sport by volunteering at a daycare center, organizing a sports activity for the children and teaching them the rules of the game. If working with youth from lower-income families, consider incorporating an equipment drive so participants can continue playing.

Be a Hero

Collaborate with your local fire department to educate youth about public safety and community service. Encourage these youth to meet real heroes from your community, and to share with others what they learned about fire and emergency safety.

Reflection 9:

We remember the many who answered the call to serve that day.

Volunteer Opportunities Guide

Connect with your local volunteer center and find out what service opportunities are available for youth in your area. Work with them to create an online directory of youth opportunities, or add to existing directories.

Pass It On

Teach younger students about the importance of service. Together with your friends and classmates, find a group of younger kids and work with them to organize a service project.

Honor Veterans and Thank First Responders

-  Identify veterans, active duty servicemembers, and first responders in your community and send them letters of support and encouragement.

Reflection 10:

Our community organizations helped us to survive and thrive.

Map it Out

With the help of your friends and classmates, create an asset map of your community to identify your community's needs and strengths and discover the resources your community has to address and respond to its own needs.

Adopt an Organization

Find an organization in your community that addresses an issue you're passionate about and that could use your support. Commit to volunteering with that organization for a set number of hours, weeks, or months.

Pass the Hat

Identify an issue you see is a real problem in your community. Research which organizations or agencies are doing something to address that problem. Plan out and operate fundraisers to help organizations continue to support your community.

Reflection II:

Despite fear and uncertainty, we still supported one another and our community.

Advocate for Community Needs

Identify a challenge you see in your community, state, or country. Write a letter to your elected leaders to inform them about this issue, why it's important to you, and offer suggestions for policy change.

Checking In

Host a weekly or biweekly get-together with your friends and loved ones. Talk about your feelings, stresses, and successes in a safe space where everyone listens to and provides support for one another, and celebrates victories of all sizes.

Support Lines

Youth and young adults regularly report mental health as a concern. Look up crisis hotlines in your area—both local organizations and affiliates of national groups—and become a volunteer who provides crisis support through call and text.

using 9/11 Day as a starting point

While youth are taking action through service on September 11, we encourage youth—and their adult champions—to consider how this one day can be the starting point for continued action. Educators, 9/11 Day is also a great stepping off point for a Fall Semester of Service.

Reflection

Think about how the project has impacted you and how your work has impacted the community. Take into consideration things outside of “number of items donated” or “number of people taught”, such as skills you learned or how your community views youth-led service.

Replication

After reflecting on your project, its successes, and its challenges, make a list of what you need to lead the project or activity a second time. Think about how you might increase your impact by helping more people, engaging more volunteers, addressing the issue at a more systemic level, or all of the above!

Other Days of Service

9/11 Day is just one day of service throughout the year. Think about other times where large numbers of people are taking action, such as MLK Day or Global Youth Service Day, and how you can join other ongoing activities or how you can continue your project on those days.



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[Twitter.com/YouthService](https://twitter.com/YouthService)

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SUBJECT: Discussion: Ideas for Next Year & Farewell

FROM: Benjamin Polony, Assistant to the Administrator

MEETING: May 4, 2026 Youth Council Meeting

MEETING DATE: May 4, 2026

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BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS: As we close out the first year of Youth Council, we can look back on what worked and what didn't work as we plan for next year. The first year was an excellent time of learning what the Youth Council can achieve and what its purpose within the City.

Any ideas that council members have are most appreciated. Some thoughts from staff include:

- More guest speakers from different departments in the City for members to learn about local government services & operations.
- Different committees formed from youth council members or other interested students in the community dedicated to planning fundraisers/drives, grant applying, events, etc.
- Building stronger relationships with area schools to connect students to the council and allow for more feedback on youth issues in the community the council can address
- Training sessions/projects to build public speaking, facilitation, and government knowledge.

RECOMMENDATION:

ACTION REQUESTED:

ATTACHMENTS:

None