



Thank you for your interest in joining the Coopersville Area Youth Advisory Council!

What is CAYAC?

The Coopersville Area Youth Advisory Council (CAYAC) is the youth committee of the Coopersville Area Community Foundation whose mission is to make our community a better place to live and work. The Coopersville Area Youth Advisory Council functions as a philanthropically driven grant review committee and volunteer organization. The CAYAC committee members represent the Coopersville Area School District and come from diverse social and economic backgrounds.

What does a CAYAC member do?

CAYAC members meet monthly to study youth needs in the community and review grant applications from various non-profit and/or community organizations. They analyze programs and projects that will benefit the youth of our community and then evaluate the impact of their grant making program. The grants are made from the Youth Fund which is an endowed fund held with the Coopersville Area Community Foundation. Each year, the CAYAC grants thousands of dollars to programs and projects benefiting the young people of the Coopersville Area.

What do you do at a CAYAC meeting?

Each meeting begins with pizza, pop, and socializing. Very quickly the students settle in to thoroughly review and discuss submitted grant proposals. Questions, such as “How many youth will this program impact?” and “Will this program make a difference?” or “Were youth involved in the planning for the project?” are asked and answered during the grant making process, entirely by the youth committee members. In the spring, CAYAC members vote on which organization receive grant funds based on their applications, community need, and availability of funds.

What else does CAYAC do?

CAYAC also evaluates other ways to reach out into the community. In addition to funding youth-related projects and programs from the Youth Fund, members learn about the issues and needs facing their peers and seek solutions to improve their community. Issues relating to substance abuse, grief, child abuse, diversity, self-esteem, and the environment may be discussed at the meetings. CAYAC members also volunteer their time at various events in the community and assist in the Coopersville Food Truck on a monthly basis in conjunction with Coopersville Cares.

What will CAYAC students learn?

Through their CAYAC experiences, students learn they can make a difference in their community. They also receive valuable leadership training and a working knowledge of philanthropy and volunteerism.