



Youth Council Code of Conduct – Town of Woodstock

Purpose:

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to provide guidance for all members of the Youth Council, ensuring that members act responsibly, respectfully, and collaboratively while contributing to the growth and development of their community. By adhering to these standards, we aim to create a safe, inclusive, and productive environment where youth voices are heard, valued, and respected.

1. Respect and Inclusion

- **Treat Everyone with Respect:** All members will treat each other with dignity and respect, regardless of their background, race, gender, or beliefs.
- **Encourage Inclusivity:** Members should foster a welcoming environment where all youth feel empowered to contribute, speak freely, and be heard.
- **Zero Tolerance for Discrimination or Harassment:** Discriminatory, harassing, or offensive language and actions will not be tolerated.

2. Integrity and Honesty

- **Be Honest and Transparent:** Members should be honest in their communications and transparent in decision-making processes.
- **Accountability:** Members are expected to take responsibility for their actions and decisions and be accountable for fulfilling their roles and commitments.

3. Professionalism

- **Punctuality:** Members are expected to attend meetings on time and be prepared. If unable to attend, members should inform the Secretary in advance.
- **Active Participation:** Every member is expected to participate actively in meetings, discussions, and activities. This includes listening, sharing ideas, and collaborating with others.
- **Respect for Meetings and Processes:** Members will respect the structure and rules of meetings, ensuring they contribute in a focused and respectful manner.

4. Confidentiality

- **Handle Sensitive Information Responsibly:** Youth Council members must handle any sensitive community or council-related information with care and respect, in accordance with the guidance from the Town Council

5. Collaboration and Teamwork

- **Support and Encourage Others:** Members should collaborate and support each other in achieving the Youth Council's goals. Constructive feedback and positive reinforcement are essential.
- **Work Toward Common Goals:** Youth Council members will work together to achieve the mission of the Youth Council and the municipality. Teamwork is key to success.
- **Respect Different Viewpoints:** It is important to appreciate and understand the diverse opinions and perspectives that each member brings to the table. Healthy debate should be encouraged, but disagreements must always be resolved respectfully.

6. Commitment to Community

- **Promote Positive Change:** Youth Council members are ambassadors for positive change in the community. They should actively engage with the public and represent youth interests with professionalism and enthusiasm.
- **Volunteerism and Community Service:** Members are encouraged to engage in community service activities that align with the Youth Council's mission.
- **Lead by Example:** Members are expected to demonstrate ethical leadership both within the council and in the community. Their actions should inspire others to be active, positive members of the community.

7. Social Media and Public Representation

- **Be Mindful of Online Behavior:** Members should be mindful of their online behavior, both in their personal and council-related posts. All interactions on social media should reflect the values of respect, integrity, and professionalism.
- **Official Communications:** Any public communication on behalf of the Youth Council, including social media or press releases, must be approved by the Youth Council Executive.

8. Safety and Wellbeing

- **Ensure a Safe Environment:** The safety and well-being of all Youth Council members are paramount. Members should foster an environment where everyone feels safe, supported, and valued.
- **Promote Mental and Physical Health:** Youth Council members should be aware of the importance of mental and physical health and encourage healthy, balanced lifestyles within the council.

9. Personal Development

- **Continuous Learning:** Youth Council members should strive for personal growth and development. This includes seeking opportunities for learning, skill development, and self-reflection.

- **Be Open to Feedback:** Members are encouraged to listen to constructive feedback from peers and mentors to improve their contributions and grow as leaders.

10. Consequences of Violating the Code of Conduct

- **Violation of the Code:** Any violation of this Code of Conduct may result in a review by the Youth Council Executive and depending on the severity, the municipality. Consequences may include a warning, temporary suspension, or removal from the Youth Council.
- **Resolution Process:** Any grievances or issues related to this Code of Conduct will be addressed through a transparent and fair process, with an opportunity for all parties involved to share their perspective. Any action that requires a formal warning, temporary suspension, or removal must be reviewed with the municipal Council representative.

By signing this Code of Conduct, I acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agree to abide by its principles and values. As a member of the Youth Council, I will contribute positively to the Council's mission and work to create a better community for all.

Member's Signature: _____

Date: _____