



Ridgefield Youth Commission



What is a Youth Commission?

A youth driven advisory board and leadership program.

Provides a youth-oriented point of view on community issues.

How would the commission be organized?

- The Mayor appoints and City Council confirms:
Nine members plus up to three alternate members.
- All members serve one-year terms: October 1 to September 30.
- Members select a chair and a vice-chair to serve one-year terms.
- Members, along with staff, determine the meeting schedule and location(s) for the year.

How would the commission operate?

- City Council assigns a topic area that is of interest to the Ridgefield community.
- Youth Commission members conduct research in topic area.
- The Commission prepares a report and makes recommendations to City Council.

Management of Youth Commission

- City Council adopts ordinance to create the commission.
- City Council adopts Rules of Procedure.
- City Manager appoints a staff member as program manager.
- Staff provides training and orientation, facilitates meetings and provides resources necessary for assigned topics, e.g., experts.

Topic for 2025-26: E-Bikes, E-Scooters, E-MiniMotorcycles

- Research risks and benefits.
- Discuss possible regulations and/or licensing.
- Consider implementation of safety requirements, e.g., helmets.
- Discuss road rules and riding locations.



Next Steps

Council Action

- Adopt Ordinance.
- Adopt Rules of Procedure.
- Select 2025-2026 Topic.

Recruit Youth Members

- Work with RSD: classrooms, youth groups and student clubs, parents, counselors.
- Engage with businesses and community partners.
- Email Announcements, Social Media and Press Release.



BUSINESS CARDS

QR code to City webpage.

FLYERS

- Distribute to parents.
- Business that cater to youth
- Parks
- Downtown: library, post office, City Hall



The flyer for the Ridgefield Youth Commission features a header image of a group of youth sitting around a table outdoors, with the City of Ridgefield logo in the top right. The main title 'RIDGEFIELD YOUTH COMMISSION' is in large white letters on a blue background, with 'VOLUNTEER ADVOCACY BOARD' below it. A dark blue box on the left lists 'Advocacy', 'Leadership', and 'Community Engagement'. The body text describes the commission's purpose and the first topic, E-bikes. A 'QUESTIONS? CONTACT:' section provides contact information for Lee Knottnerus. A 'QUALIFICATIONS' section lists requirements for applicants. A QR code and a 'MORE INFORMATION & APPLICATION:' link are at the bottom right.

RIDGEFIELD YOUTH COMMISSION
VOLUNTEER ADVOCACY BOARD

*Advocacy
Leadership
Community Engagement*

The City of Ridgefield is seeking young community members to apply for the first **Ridgefield Youth Commission**.

The Youth Commission is a unique opportunity for youth to engage meaningfully with local government, share input on issues that matter to them, and help shape policy that matters.

ABOUT YOUTH COMMISSION
The Youth Commission will research assigned topics by working with experts and engaging with their peers. Then, they will collaborate to develop recommendations and prepare a report to City Council.

This advisory board will provide vital youth-oriented perspective on community issues and provide leadership opportunities for its members.

FIRST TOPIC: E-BIKES
E-Bikes are becoming increasingly popular, especially among teens and young adults. This popularity has come with increased number of accidents, near-misses and safety concerns. To give these youth a voice in shaping solutions, E-Bikes will be the first project topic for the Youth Commission.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Attend 8-12 grade in a Ridgefield School District school, OR
- Live within Ridgefield city limits and attend 8-12 grade in a different school or are an equivalent age in a non-traditional school setting.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
LEE KNOTTNERUS,
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

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MORE INFORMATION & APPLICATION:
RidgefieldWa.us/432/Youth-Commission



QUESTIONS AND DIRECTION

