



## City of Lewiston Press Statement

March 29, 2022

The City of Lewiston is seeking new members for the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council's (LYAC) July 2022 – July 2023 year of service. The LYAC enables youth to undertake initiatives/projects that enhance the community, work towards goals to empower youth community-wide, and to serve as a liaison between youth and the City. The charter group, established by the Lewiston City Council in 2001, first met in September 2002, and LYAC has since received local, state, and national recognition.

Those interested in serving for the 2022 – 2023 term may apply online at [www.lewistonmaine.gov/lyac22-23](http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/lyac22-23), and the deadline for submission is **May 13, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.** Copies of the application can also be printed from the web link & mailed to the Lewiston City Administrator's Office, 27 Pine Street, Lewiston, ME 04240. To be considered for membership on the LYAC, an applicant must be in grade 9-12 (or will be in the fall) at either Lewiston High School or St. Dominic Academy **OR** a Lewiston resident at the time of application. Homeschooled students who reside in Lewiston are also welcome to apply for membership. Current members may also re-apply for another year of service.

Mayor Carl Sheline looks forward to additional youth seeking ways to become engaged within the community, ***“LYAC provides our city a needed perspective from those who will be most affected tomorrow by the decisions that we make today.”***

The youth council has been actively engaged since 2002, the latest effort being a naming contest for Lewiston's newest athletic park, Mike McGraw Park. The current group also facilitated a job fair at the Lewiston Armory and partnered with Museum LA for a community giving/cultural event during the holidays. The current group will also be participating in the April 16, 2022, *“Litter Pick-Up Day”* in partnership with the Lewiston Public Works Department and is currently planning for a July *“Celebrating Lewiston”* event to highlight various positives in Lewiston.

Other examples of LYAC's work are social media videos to address isolation and mental health concerns during the COVID19 pandemic; a *“Light in the Dark”* photo/narrative exhibit to remind people they were not alone during the COVID public state of emergency; addressing food insecurity with the St. Mary's Nutrition Center; facilitating a *Bullyproof Lewiston* campaign; developing a *U Booze U Looze* underage drinking/driving awareness

campaign & filming the video “SMASHED;” posting 1,400 uplifting messages on Lewiston High School lockers; participating in the City’s All-America competition/designation; advocating for the posting of numbers on homes/businesses to aid emergency responders; siting an 1891 E. Howard timepiece as a multi-level presence at City Hall, as well as focusing on topics such as Lewiston’s image; Lewiston as a food/dining destination; diversity; park revitalization; recycling; homelessness; college going; arts & culture; noise pollution; and much more.

When applications for the 2022-2023 year are received, a Selection Committee, which will include Mayor Sheline, will review all submitted LYAC applications, conduct interviews, and appoint up to fifteen (15) youth. **Going into the new LYAC year, there will be multiple openings, as 10 seniors will be graduating from high school in June, which will conclude their tenure on LYAC.**

The committee will make its selection by the last Friday in June, and selected youth will be subsequently notified & then officially appointed during a July 2022 Lewiston City Council meeting. Orientation will occur in August of 2022. Community Relations Coordinator Dottie Perham-Whittier serves as the group’s Advisor, and City Councilor Linda Scott is the current City Council Liaison. The youth council is annually sponsored by the Lewiston Firefighters Association.

For more information on the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council, interested individuals may visit [www.lewistonmaine.gov/lyac](http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/lyac) Inquiries/questions: 207-513-3018 or [dottie@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:dottie@lewistonmaine.gov)

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