

HCAA Youth Membership Council - Creation Process

As someone who has always loved art, I wanted to find a way to blend that passion with my Girl Scout Gold Award. After lots of time and consideration, I decided that I wanted to find a way to share my love of art and to help others find their love of art. I talked with the Hamilton County Artists' Association (HCAA) and realized that they have an adult membership, but not a youth membership. After discussions with the president of the adult membership and the board, I decided to create a Youth Membership Council with HCAA. There are many things that I had to do while working with a nonprofit organization, and I'm going to share exactly what I did to create this council.

First, I had to create a plan outlining the goals of the council, the age range, what I want to focus on, and take note of the interest in creating a council. Over a span of time, I developed more specific details of the organization and filled out the proposal. Before I sent my proposal to Girl Scouts, I had to present my youth art council idea to the president and the board of the HCAA to get their approval to work with the adult council and to use their building space. I set up a meeting with them to present my idea and to address any questions and concerns they might have with the proposal. After several meetings and lots of discussion, we came up with a solid plan to present to the rest of the adult membership. I needed to put my idea up for a vote to be approved and to move on with the planning stages.

Once my idea was approved by all of HCAA, I finished my proposal and sent it to the Girl Scout Council. After getting the idea fully approved, I started doing more research on how to get my Youth Membership Council going. I interviewed with a couple youth art councils around Indiana that already exist to understand their format and how they run their meetings.

From there, it was easy, but just a lot of work. I created the application and got that sent out as soon as possible. I emailed different art teachers from different schools, made flyers to post them in my public library, and shared the news any way I could. As applications started flowing in, we reviewed the information and looked at examples of their artwork. The HCAA board and I decided on 7 people to create our council and sent emails congratulating the students and sharing important information and dates.

After that, I created an agenda for the first meeting. This includes the expectations of being in this council, future meeting dates, supplies that one should be able to bring to the meeting, what will be provided, and then discussing what people want to learn. Since this is student led, it is important to get everyone's opinions and input. From here on out it should be a breeze! I will continue making agendas, contacting artists from the adult membership to demonstrate for the youth artists, find volunteer opportunities, and encourage the love of art.

If you want to pursue a project like mine, here are the steps and I wish you the best of luck!

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