



**PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
MEMORANDUM #01-2018**

**DATE:** January 22, 2018  
**TO:** Honorable Mayor Carol Dodge and City Council Members  
**FROM:** James A. Hayes, AICP, City Manager   
Amanda J. Peterson, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture   
**SUBJECT:** Youth Commission 2017 Annual Report

**PURPOSE**

At the conclusion of each quarter, members of the Northglenn Youth Commission provide City Council with a brief narrative report. At the conclusion of the first, second and third quarter, the report includes a narrative summary of activities and accomplishments from the last three months, as well as a preview of upcoming events and activities. At the end of the fourth quarter, both a written annual report and a narrative report are provided. Youth Commission President Savannah Van Duyn and Youth Commission Board Member Natalie Grambart will be in attendance at the Council meeting to present the narrative report.

**BACKGROUND**

The 2017 annual report is attached. The report includes an overview of the current board members, as well as a summary of all of the activities that the Youth Commission has been a part of in 2017.

During 2017, the Northglenn Youth Commission volunteered or participated in the following events and activities:

- Recruiting new members
- National League of Cities Congressional Cities Conference
- Veteran's Memorial Flowerbed
- Flapjacks and Fireworks Four Mile Run
- Brothers Redevelopment Paint-A-Thon
- Connect Northglenn
- National Night Out
- Relay for Life
- Business Appreciation Breakfast
- Adams County Education Consortium's Career Expo
- Safe Street Halloween
- School Supply, Coat and Food Drive
- Noel Northglenn
- Bike Cleanup

**STAFF REFERENCE**

For additional information, please contact Amanda Peterson, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture at [apeterson@northglenn.org](mailto:apeterson@northglenn.org) or 303.450.8950.

# Northglenn Youth Commission



# 2017 Annual Report

# BOARD of DIRECTORS

**Meetings** The Youth Commission Board of Directors holds a meeting on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Northglenn Recreation Center. The first meeting of the month is a formal business meeting; the second is a working meeting. Agendas and minutes, along with other board documents, can be found at [www.northglenn.org/NYC](http://www.northglenn.org/NYC). All Youth Commission meetings are open to the public. Youth who are interested in joining the Youth Commission, or those that just have an idea to share, are encouraged to attend.

**Join the Board** To be eligible, interested youth must be between the ages of 13 and 18, and live in Northglenn or attend school in the Adams 12 Five Star School District. Applications are available on the city's website at [www.northglenn.org/nyc](http://www.northglenn.org/nyc).

**Current Members** There are 11 seated Youth Commission Board Members. Youth Commissioners serve one-year terms, any member in good standing may be reappointed for consecutive terms.

- Savannah VanDuyn, President
- Allie Donnici, Vice President
- Mariah Witkowski, Secretary
- Peyton Larsen, Vice Secretary
- Chandler Sanchez, Treasurer
- Miriah Christian, Board Member
- Isabelle Cunis, Board Member
- Lily Cunis, Board Member
- Aidan Earls, Board Member
- Natalie Grambart, Board Member
- Cindy Ornelas Rodriguez, Board Member
- Victoria Baca, Member
- Elizabeth Donnici, Member
- Jarrett Lobb, Applicant
- Everett Renberg, Applicant

This summer we said goodbye to Board Member Trinity Waldman when she moved to Minnesota.



**New Members** During the month of August the Youth commission started working very hard on the expansion of the board. With many high school seniors graduating in May of 2018, the current members knew they needed to make it a goal to reach out to students that would be interested in joining the board. With the start of school, the members started reaching out to friends, other schools, and students throughout the community.

As a result of this effort, the board welcomed three new members— Miriah Christian, Lily Cunis, Aidan Earls. In addition, Isabelle Cunis rejoined the Youth Commission after spending a year studying in Germany. Thank you for your commitment to giving a voice to Northglenn's youth!

# National League of Cities

This past March, the Youth Commission was granted the amazing opportunity to go to Washington, D.C. for the 2017 National League of Cities conference. At this conference the youth commissioners engaged in a variety of different sessions covering the issues that they were most passionate about. Sessions covered current political topics from addressing climate change to potential impacts of proposed changes to the Affordable Care Act. The commissioners also engaged in various networking events, meeting and conversing with other youth commissioners and elected officials from across the country.

The Youth Commissioners had a meeting scheduled with Congressman Ed Perlmutter—unfortunately, a snowstorm kept him in Denver. Instead, the Youth Commission met with his assistant to talk about community challenges and diverse new solutions. Several Youth Commissioners, along with Council Member Antonio Esquibel, also had the opportunity to meet with Colorado senators Michael Bennett and Cory Gardner. The Senators discussed their own 2017 policy goals to help address their constituents' needs.

While in Washington, D.C., the Youth Commissioners took advantage of a few hours of free time each evening, and went on many sightseeing journeys to visit the monuments, the epic Smithsonian Museums, an in depth tour of the U.S. Capitol, and countless other impactful places across the city from Chinatown to the Arlington Memorial.

This week-long adventure in public policy, modern politics, and lots of fun sightseeing was once of a lifetime experience that all the commissioners hold dearly, and enjoyed to its fullest, using what they learned there to rethink how they addressed community issues later in the year.

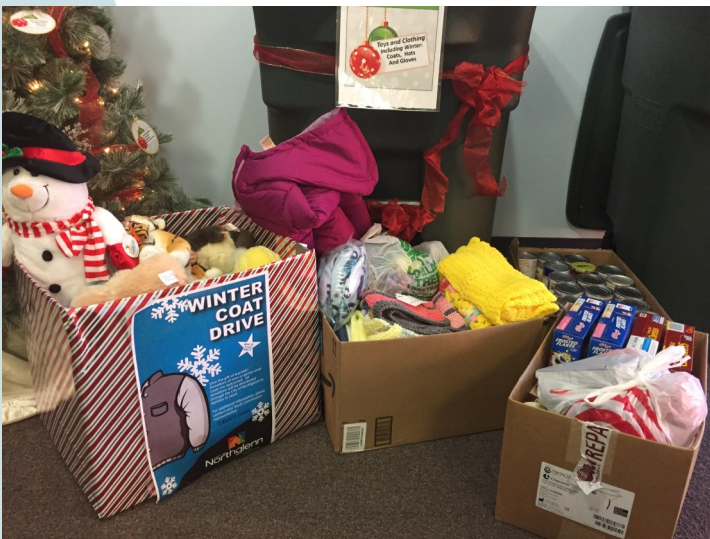




## Career Expo

In November, the Youth Commission wanted to revisit on a goal that had been set in a previous year; to help mentor younger youth and to attract a younger audience to be more active in their community.

To do this, the Youth Commission worked with Adams County Economic Development staff on the 8th Grade Career Expo. The Youth Commissioners met with staff in advance of the career expo. Ultimately, the Youth Commission agreed to serve as ambassadors at the career expo to help the students navigate the event and to get them to be more involved. Each member was assigned a different task to make the experience more enjoyable for the 8th graders that were attending. Youth Commissioners wore shirts that said "I Know Stuff!," and gave directions to the booths, answered any questions that the students might have, and helped get the students more excited and involved in the event. The experience as a whole - for both the members and the students attending the event, was very memorable. The Youth Commissioners look forward to helping out with similar events in the future.



## School Supply, Coat & Food Drive

The Youth Commission sponsored a food, coat and school supply drive, as a way to give to those within the community that are in need, knowing that there are people who would need coats come the cold months, and to give students new school supplies as the second semester begins.



We decided to do this because we all know what it's like to start to run low on school supplies and still have five months of school still ahead. Along with this, it was agreed that no child should have to go through these next cold months without a coat.

Through these drives, we collected three large boxes of coats and five large boxes of school supplies, thanks to the donations made at the various locations that the boxes were placed.

Coats and food were added to the city's collection that is distributed through the Immaculate Heart of Mary food bank, and the Youth Commission plans to distribute all the school supplies that were gathered to five schools in Northglenn as soon as students are back in school for the second semester.

# PROJECTS

# VOLUNTEERISM

**Flowerbed** We also helped plant the flower beds with new flowers for the summer season. This has been an event that we do annually and was originally created to honor veterans in our community. Each year we work with city staff to plant, weed, and eventually clear the bed.

The bed is always planted in red, white and blue, in honor of our veterans. The bed is located on the west side of E.B. Rains Jr. Memorial Park.



## Bike Clean Up

The Youth Commission also helped with the Holiday Bike Clean-up and Repair hosted by Jenni Murphy. They helped unload bikes from the containers, clean them up, and place them in the proper spot depending on what the bike needed to get fixed. Many volunteers showed up and the event was a success as hundreds of bikes were cleaned, fixed, and prepared for delivery.



**Relay for Life** Last September, Youth Commission took to the streets fundraiser for American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event. In the months preceding, each member fundraised for the fight against cancer, resulting in our team raising over \$1,200. September 9th, the day of the event, we helped set up and then got to walking- where we can proudly say we had someone on the track at all times.

**Paint-A-Thon** Last June, Youth Commission had the opportunity to participate in the Brother's Redevelopment Paint-A-Thon for the third consecutive year. Along with several Northglenn Staff members, we worked over the course of a day to repaint the exterior of a house for an elderly man who did not have the resources or funds to do it himself. All paint and supplies were contributed by Brother's Redevelopment. Everyone worked very hard to paint the home and had some fun along the way as well.

The entire opportunity provided us with yet another chance to reach out and give back to the community we live in. The Youth Commission's goal that day was to give back to our community in more diverse ways. We look forward to doing just that each year we are able to work with Brothers Redevelopment and the Paint-A-Thon program.



# Fireworks & Flapjacks

On July 4th, the Northglenn Youth Commission once again volunteered at the annual Firecrackers and Flapjacks 4 Mile Run. The run is co-hosted with the City of Northglenn and the Northglenn Community Foundation and is a great way to kick-off the July 4th holiday. The board members were able to hand out water at aid stations, provide directions, and cheer on a variety of runners, joggers, and walkers.

After the race, Youth Commissioners provided assistance at the Northglenn Thornton Rotary's annual Ducky Derby.



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

## National Night Out

On Tuesday, August 1, the Youth Commissioners attended National Night Out block parties alongside Northglenn police officers and other public officials. This event was a great opportunity to tell people in the community what the Youth Commission is all about, and for each of the Youth Commissioners to visit with local residents of all ages about their concerns or ideas to improve the city.

Youth Commissioners Savannah Van Duyn and Isabelle Cunis even got to ride in the MRAP, alongside Chief May, which everyone agreed was a great way to arrive at the block parties!



# EVENT SUPPORT

## Safe Street Halloween

In October, we continued our tradition of running a cookie station at Northglenn's Safe Street Halloween event, hosted by the Northglenn Police Department and Northglenn High School's clubs. A local business, Cakes By Karen, provided one thousand sugar cookies and over 15 gallons of festively colored frosting for kids to decorate. It was a sugar rush.



The children at the event were able to decorate their very own sugar cookie with heaps of frosting after going through all the rooms that the event held. The Youth Commissioners are pleased to have supported the Northglenn Police Department at this event for over 13 years.

## Noel Northglenn

In December, the Youth Commission once again volunteered at Noel Northglenn. Before getting to work, Youth Commissioners tried out the "WOW Bubbles," which are large inflatable balloons that you can get inside to try to "walk" on water.

After a bit of fun, Youth Commissioners helped the attendees by pointing them in the direction of the events or activities they were looking for. Once the event started to wind down, Youth Commissioners helped clean everything up and put things back into storage.



## Business Breakfast

In October, the Youth Commissioners attended the City of Northglenn's Business Appreciation Breakfast.

Youth Commissioners were proud to join fellow STEM students from Northglenn High School who had developed the centerpieces for the event, as well as their peers who received entrepreneurial awards this year.

Each of the Youth Commissioners was excited to bring home a "You Did It!" button from the event.



## Connect Northglenn

This summer, youth commissioners worked with Ashley Kaade from the City's Planning & Development department to provide input on the Connect Northglenn Project. After hearing a short presentation about the project, youth commissioners used an interactive map to identify places in the city that are difficult to walk or bike, missing trail connections and provided other ideas about how to improve biking and walking in the city.





