

Kacee Geisler
Town Board Scholarship Essay
April 26, 2022

When you think of a town board, the stereotype of it is older folks that have money and can be grumpy. The reality is that the town board members are hard workers of all ages who wanted to be able to make changes within their communities. Town boards can be people who were born in the area or citizens from across the country who moved to the area. There are many reasons members join the board such as wanting to change something, partake in a leadership opportunity, better the community, or to have power. To influence the young to want to be a part of a town board one day, there needs to be opportunities involving the town for them, make them aware of how hard a town board works to benefit the town, and give the teenage population within the community a voice. Life in the community as a teenager is most probably the most influential aspect of joining a town board in the future. The following examples will be potential possibilities and ideas for Minocqua WI, but also references for every town board.

Within a town, there should always be opportunities for the young such as jobs, volunteering, or learning throughout departments like the DNR or the local police station. I applied for a job in the Town of Minocqua two years ago and it has become my summer job. The job is watercraft inspecting at the local boat landings for invasive species. This one single job opportunity has gotten me to enter the town building for the first time, meet some people a part of the town board, and also learn more from the DNR about invasive species. Other aspects that should be done for the youth are bringing the DNR into the local high schools or the police department and teaching the students about actual information from people in the job force. They can say the town board wanted them to come in, which appeals to the students because we need to learn more about the workforce in our curriculum. Volunteer opportunities for the students

within the workforce, or even miscellaneous work in the town buildings to introduce the future opportunity is another idea. The biggest issue is that the kids are kept enclosed from the town and everything the town is associated with. By opening the doors younger kids can learn, and make it a potential goal in the future to be a part of the board.

The town board makes the decisions for the town as a whole. The largest thing the board is in charge of is the budget and conducting annual budget meetings. Decisions such as what roads need to be worked on, what buildings can go where, and town events occurring are all things mentioned frequently. Meetings where the public can sit, watch or speak up happen monthly or bi-monthly, and it's not announced enough. The town board should be more aware and not hidden within the community. Make note of the meetings with a little card inside the local businesses, also make it aware anyone can share their thoughts.

Teenagers are equally a part of a community as adults or first graders, but the difference is teenagers are the future of the community. Teenagers deserve to be knowledgeable by choice about the town board and activities. The town board should listen to some ideas teenagers have because not all of them are bad, many are creative and would help the town. Students' ideas can potentially be looked over as a joke which is understandable, but time needs to be taken into some of the ideas to show we're heard.

In conclusion, the town board needs to open the doors slightly. Giving the youth a voice, educating others on what the town board does, and giving teenagers opportunities in the community will all contribute to showing that the town board does care. These factors will show kids that being on a town board is impactful and give people the power to help their town, but most importantly, their home. The town board is a larger deal than it's stereotyped to be, and it should be shown to the youth as a golden opportunity besides an extra position with more work.