



News & Views

Spring 2016

A newsletter of the Kyle Area Youth Advisory Council

Start Summer off Right with Teen Night

Come celebrate summer with the third annual **KAYAC Teen Night**. This year's theme is Luau! We're planning an evening of food, games and fun to help you get through the last few days of school. We ask for a \$2 door fee — it's well worth it!



Teen Night takes place from 7-10 p.m. May 27 at the Kyle Pool, located on W. Center St. Ages 13-18 welcome to attend.

How do I get involved?

There are many ways to get involved with KAYAC:

- **SPEAK UP!** Have an idea? Let us know what you think!
- Attend a meeting. We also have a citizen's comments segment.
- Volunteer. Participating in events like Teen Night, the YAC Summit, or the Founder's Parade are fun ways to get involved.



Contact KAYAC: Email Sarah Watson, swatson@cityofkyle.com or visit our website.

Skate Park Planning

Do you ever hear your friends complaining about Kyle not having enough for young people to do? We've heard it, too.

One suggestion is to build a skate park in Kyle. KAYAC formed the **Skate Park Subcommittee** to design and advocate for the skate park Kyle's young adults say they want.

But KAYAC still needs your help! The opinions of others regarding the skate park's design are critical to moving forward with this project.

Submit opinions, questions or comments to the Facebook page [Potential Kyle Skatepark](#) or Tweet us your thoughts [@kyleskatepark](#). Tell us what you want to see!

City Calendar of Events

Get involved and get connected to your city! Upcoming meetings & events:

- May 27 - Teen Night at Kyle Pool
- June 7 - Kyle City Council Mtg.
- June 8 - Kyle Leadership Academy
- June 9 - Kyle Library Board Mtg.
- June 11 - Market Days
- June 17 - Goosebumps (Movie in the Park at Lake Kyle)
- June 21 - Kyle City Council Mtg.
- June 27 - Kyle PARD Board Mtg.

Say Hello to KAYAC!

Some people say younger generations seem as though they don't care much about their town or city government — or government in general. Here in Kyle, we are bucking that trend.

The Kyle Area Youth Advisory Council, or KAYAC, is an advisory group comprised of students from Lehman and Hays High schools. Our 15 members are actively involved in the community. We provide a youthful perspective on issues to the Kyle City Council. Who knows? Some day, one of us may run for office right here in Kyle.

What does KAYAC do? Lots!

Our **Outreach Subcommittee** conducts surveys and gathers opinions through research, peer discussion and social media discourse. With what we learn, we're able to share those findings with city leaders and department heads. This gives young people a voice in the city and a platform to share our ideas and input. It also provides an opportunity to get an inside

perspective on how municipal government operates.

KAYAC's **Volunteering and Events Subcommittee** offers volunteer opportunities for our members.

Just in the past several months, KAYAC members were involved with Santa's

Arrival and Tree Lighting and the Easter Eggstravaganza. We also formed our own Global Youth Service Day project. On May 27 we will host Teen Night at Kyle Pool.

Our members are also involved in several long-term projects, including the renovation of City Square Park in downtown Kyle and building a skate park. We even have a **Skate Park Subcommittee**.

The **Newsletter Committee** will continue to put together informative stories keeping you up-to-date on KAYAC activities.



KAYAC members (L-R) Nate McHale, Hanna Malott, Luke Jackson, Lila Ramos, Aidan O'Keeffe, Destinee Cabrera, Alex Moore, Nathaniel Garcia. Not pictured: Jonathan Lopez, Robert Brown, Andy Garza, Melysa Alvarez, Alexis Denen, Meghan Murphy and Dalton Tristan.

Downtown beautification

KAYAC's meetings in downtown Kyle have served as an inspiration for an effort to beautify and update City Square Park, located in the middle of downtown Kyle. The **Downtown Subcommittee** was created to identify park needs and to formulate ideas for redesign. These ideas were

presented to and approved by the Parks Board and are currently in the development stage. Stay tuned for exciting updates on this project! Subcommittee members are: Hanna Malott, Alex Moore, Luke Jackson, Megan Murphy, Alexis Denen, Dalton Tristan, Jonathan Lopez and Melysa Alvarez.



The gazebo in Kyle's City Square Park.

YAC Summit Highlights

For students, it is invaluable to have an opportunity to learn from passionate public speakers and from a diverse group of peers. Several of our KAYAC members did both at this year's Texas Municipal League Youth Advisory Council (YAC) Summit held in Pearland, Texas, near Houston.

During this summit, KAYAC members learned about the nature of goals, the importance of effort and controlling your future. One of the summit's featured speakers was John Register, a talented hurdle jumper who suffered a terrible injury resulting in the amputation of his left leg. He spoke passionately about his experience as an athlete both before and after his injury; he also offered a deep and valuable lesson about the nature of goals and effort. Jessie Funk, a musician-psychologist-speaker, spoke about abusive relationships and taking control of their own destinies.

Our members also interacted with other YACs, offering valuable insight into the modus operandi of other YACs and new ideas on what sorts of projects to support in Kyle.

No summit is complete without food and fun, and there was plenty of that! For example, KAYAC President Andy Garza smoked the competition in karaoke, Jonathan Lopez conquered the rodeo bull and Aidan O'Keeffe rocked bouncy house failure.

The summit gave us a deeper appreciation for KAYAC's mission and a stronger bond within the group. We came away with renewed vigor and drive to make Kyle better than ever!