



September 28, 2011

YOUTH COUNCIL APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

Applications are currently being accepted for the Catawba County Youth Council. The Council began meeting in January 2008 to provide a youth voice and perspective to local government. The council consists of 25 high school students with representatives from each school and selected community organizations.

The Youth Council meets monthly at the Agricultural Resources Center in Newton. Students are appointed to the Council by the Catawba County Commissioners. Students are appointed for a one-year term but may be reappointed for consecutive years, if they meet criteria for reappointment.

According to Donna Mull, Catawba County 4-H Agent and Youth Council Advisor, “a growing number of city and county governments are organizing youth councils as a way to educate and hear from teen leaders about local issues. Often governing boards, make decisions that impact youth but never hear the opinion of the youth effected”. Youth Councils provide an avenue for students to improve their leadership skills and learn more about and become involved with local issues and civic affairs.

Monthly Council meetings feature speakers and educational programs to help youth learn about current topics. Council officers determine the focus for the year and develop plans for each meeting. For the 2010-11 school-year the Council focused on Teen Health and the focus for 2011-12 is local government. During the past school year, the Council supported the implementation of the Distracted Driving Video Contest, organized “Healthy Walk for Life” at Riverbend Park, and volunteered in excess of 75 hours providing tutoring for elementary school youth in cooperation with Kid Connection.

Youth Council applications may be obtained from high school guidance counselors. Interested students may also contact the NC Cooperative Extension Center at 465-8240 or e-mail donna_mull@ncsu.edu. Completed applications are due by October 3.