

# Youth Council Event Descriptions

## Vocabulary:

### Near-Peer Mentoring

Guiding or teaching someone just a little younger than you—think “older teammate helping a younger teammate.”

- **What it looks like:** Running a quick demo, coaching a game or craft, showing how to check in at an event, modeling good behavior.
- **Examples:** Teaching elementary kids a simple craft at Trunk-or-Treat, helping younger volunteers greet families at Santa & the Lights, showing new YC members how to run the prize table.
- **Why it matters:** Builds confidence (yours and theirs), leadership, and communication.

### Service-Based Learning (SBL)

Community service that also teaches you skills—you **plan** → **do** → **reflect**.

- **What it looks like:** Solving a real need while learning how events work (logistics, budgeting, teamwork).
- **Examples:** Managing check-in and tracking attendance data, organizing a donations table and writing thank-you notes, leading clean-up with a quick “what worked/what to change” recap.
- **Why it matters:** You help the community *and* gain practical experience you can use at school, work, and future leadership roles.

**Design Team Model:** A Design Team Lead oversees planning and a group of supporting youth leaders manages key pieces (theme & décor, promotions, check-in & crowd flow, setup/cleanup, and budget tracking). The Design Team selects the theme and ensures all plans stay within budget. This model gives youth hands-on experience with project management, budgeting, teamwork, and hosting a positive community gathering—skills that carry into school, work, and future civic leadership

**Meetings** -Youth Council meets monthly on the third Tuesday; Leadership convenes at 5:00 PM and the main meeting runs 5:30–6:30 PM, with all members expected to attend. Meetings include leadership training, planning for upcoming events and assignments, and a review of recent events to identify what worked and what to improve; guest speakers occasionally join to share opportunities. The Secretary records minutes so everyone has clear follow-ups. These meetings are where we build team connections, learn about city processes and opportunities, and make decisions that keep our events running smoothly.

**July - PRCA Rodeo** - Bluffdale Old West Days begins with the annual rodeo, where Youth Council members provide service support as needed. Volunteers earn service hours by helping wrangle kids waiting to participate in activities and by guiding attendees to their seats in the stands—ensuring a smooth, safe, and family-friendly experience throughout the event.

This is a Partner **Service Based Learning** event and requires 6-20 council members to sign up. (Youth Council Support)

**August - Old West Day** - Youth Council begins preparations 1–2 weeks before the parade by designing and building the float. On parade day, members meet at the lineup, ride and walk the route, and—where permitted—toss candy, giving the community a fun way to see Youth Council in action. The second part of the day focuses on service: members sign up for shifts to support the broader Old West Days festivities, which in past years has included selling concessions and running games and activities for kids. Service hours are awarded for both float preparation and event shifts.

This event utilizes the **Design Team Model** and is a **Service Based Learning** event and all Youth Council members are expected to sign up for shifts and participate

**September** - Constitution Reading- The Constitution Reading is held annually in September on a school day at approximately 8:00 AM. Youth Council members are invited to read a short passage of the U.S. Constitution, and participation will be excused from school as a civic event (please coordinate with your school’s attendance office). Students must arrange their own transportation to and from the event; detailed sign-ups and reading assignments will be provided in advance by the contact at the city. You will get service hours for attending.

**October - Trunk or Treat** - Trunk or Treat is hosted by *My Summer Adventures* in collaboration with Bluffdale City, and the Youth Council sets up an interactive booth to bring extra fun for kids in the community. Last year we transformed three pop-up canopies into a mini “Spook Alley” and ran near-peer mentoring craft tables where teens taught younger children to make “ghost sucker” treats (a lollipop wrapped in a napkin and tied with a pipe cleaner). We use the Design Team model (one lead with supporting roles), and all members sign up for set-up, activity shifts, and clean-up—earning service hours while creating a safe, festive Halloween experience.

This event utilizes the **Design Team Model**. Parts of this event are **Service Based Learning** and some are **Near Peer Mentoring**. All Youth Council members are expected to sign up for shifts and participate.

**November** - Volunteer Appreciation - A city-hosted appreciation event celebrating our Youth Council’s dedication and hard work—with fun activities as a heartfelt thank-you for all they do.

**December - Santa and the Lights** - Santa and the Lights brings the community together to kick off the holiday season. Santa Claus makes a grand entrance riding on a fire truck through the

city park before joining the crowd at the stage. Together, Santa leads the countdown to light the Christmas tree and illuminate the park in thousands of festive lights.

Along with the lighting ceremony, families can enjoy free booths and holiday festivities throughout the park. Last year, the Youth Council hosted a Letters to Santa booth, complete with a giant mailbox where children could write and send their letters straight to the North Pole. At the end of the evening, Youth Council members personally delivered the mailbox to Santa before he returned on his sleigh. It quickly became a crowd favorite and will continue this year.

This event utilizes the **Design Team Model**. Parts of this event are **Service Based Learning** and some are **Near Peer Mentoring**. All Youth Council members are expected to sign up for shifts and participate.

**January - Bingo** - Bingo Night has become one of Bluffdale's favorite annual traditions, hosted by the Youth Council for the entire community. Over the years, this event has grown tremendously-last year we estimated over 400 people participated throughout the night! It is a classic Bingo experience: Youth Council provides the bingo cards, bingo cage, and fun prizes. In the past, we have partnered with the Healthy Bluffdale Coalition to provide refreshments, and this year we plan to partner with a local elementary school to make sure we have enough space to welcome as many families as possible.

Members of the design team not only organize the evening but also connect with local businesses to secure excellent prizes for participants, while the entire council contributes to making the night successful.

This event utilizes the **Design Team Model** and is a **Service Based Learning** event and all Youth Council members are expected to sign up for shifts and participate.

**February - Dance** - The Youth Council Dance is a youth-led event planned and executed by the Bluffdale Youth Council. In past years, we've also invited neighboring Youth Councils to participate, making it a fun multi-council event. The entire Youth Council is expected to sign up for shifts and attend on the night of the event to help it run smoothly.

This event utilizes the **Design Team Model** and is a **Service Based Learning** event and all Youth Council members are expected to sign up for shifts and participate.

**April** - Easter Egg Hunt w/Lions Club - Partner Service Based Learning Event (Youth Council Support)

The Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt is a community favorite where the Bluffdale Youth Council provides service-based support. We typically need 6–12 youth volunteers to help the event run smoothly. It's short, fun, and often includes someone dressing up as the Easter Bunny!

Partner **Service Based Learning** Event (Youth Council Support)

**May - Love Where You Live** - This is a city sponsored event where different departments and organizations have a booth where they share with the attendees about their organization and how they contribute to our community. The Youth Council hosts a booth. There are normally food trucks and activities for the whole community.

This event utilizes the **Design Team Model** and is a **Service Based Learning** event and all Youth Council members are expected to sign up for shifts and participate.

## Travel

**Leadership Retreat** - The Leadership Retreat is an overnight experience where Youth Council advisors take the leadership team to build trust, strengthen bonds, and lay a solid foundation for leading throughout the year. Participation is limited to elected and appointed leaders: Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, Historian, Deputy Historian, Communications, and Deputy Communications. This retreat serves as both targeted leadership training and a meaningful incentive—recognizing those who commit to serving in Youth Council leadership roles.

**USU Logan-** The Youth City Council Leadership Conference (Logan, UT) is hosted by Utah State University, which provides the weekend's programming and meals. Our council will have two session options this year—Session 1: March 6–8 and Session 2: March 13–15—so youth can attend the dates that best fit their schedules. In past years we stayed at the University Inn; however, because our council has grown (last year we brought 22 youth and rented a bus), we will stay in a supervised Airbnb this year to strengthen internal bonding, create leadership opportunities (youth plan select meals and timelines), and increase hands-on advisor support throughout the weekend. This approach enriches the experience for participants and helps build long-term sustainability for our Youth Council program.

**Design Team** - Spring TLT Design Team - May 15-16, 2026 (Price). It is hosted by USU at their Price campus. Design team is for youth to come together and learn to plan a community event, they learn leadership, teamwork, communication, and other skills relevant to planning and leading an event.

**TRY Team** - TRY Team is where youth come together in a team (or teams) of 4-5 youth where they will choose a curriculum they are interested in learning and then reteaching to youth in their community. (There have been cooking, personal finance, etc).