



Kenosha County Youth As Resources

WHAT IS YOUTH AS RESOURCES

Youth As Resources (YAR) is a grant giving organization that helps youth groups in Kenosha County to plan and implement meaningful community service and service-learning projects. By involving youth in their communities, YAR not only empowers young people to be active and engaged citizens, but it also strengthens the communities of Kenosha County.

Youth As Resources is governed by a board made up of 9 youth board members and 3 adult board members who meet monthly and award grants of up to \$500 to Youth-designed and led service projects in Kenosha County three or four times a year. It is coordinated by UW-Madison Division of Extension Kenosha County in partnership with United Way of Kenosha County, which provides \$5000 to the program each year to fund the grants given by the YAR Board.

HISTORY

Youth As Resources began as a project of the National Crime Prevention Council in 1987 with funding from the Lily Endowment, Inc. Since 1987, Youth As Resources programs have formed all over the United States and even abroad.

In 2004, Kenosha County Youth As Resources was established as a partnership between Extension Kenosha County and the United Way of Kenosha County, in response to a 2002 Search Institute study citing that only 23% of youth perceived that “adults in the community value youth,” and only 26% felt that youth are “given useful roles in their community.”

Since that time, Kenosha County Youth As Resources has worked to combat these findings, and help youth feel that they can be valuable resources in their communities. As of August 1, 2026, Kenosha County Youth As Resources has granted over \$88,000 to more than 240 youth-led service projects!

OVERVIEW OF THE YAR BOARD

The Youth As Resources Board of Directors is a group of youth and adults that meet regularly to sustain the Youth As Resources program. The YAR Board is responsible for everything ranging from publicity and recruitment, to administration and outreach, and much more. Central to the YAR Board’s activities are awarding youth-led service grants to youth groups in Kenosha County and the development of valuable leadership skills.

To ensure that there is a balance between encouraging mentorship and promoting strong youth voice, Youth As Resources maintains a board that is made up of 9 youth (grades 9-12) and 3 adults. The goal is to recruit board members that reflect the demographics of the county population and have representation from a variety of schools throughout Kenosha County.



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