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**#OPRA2023**



# Let's Talk Teens: Teen Engagement in Your Community

Ohio Parks and Recreation Association | February 1, 2023

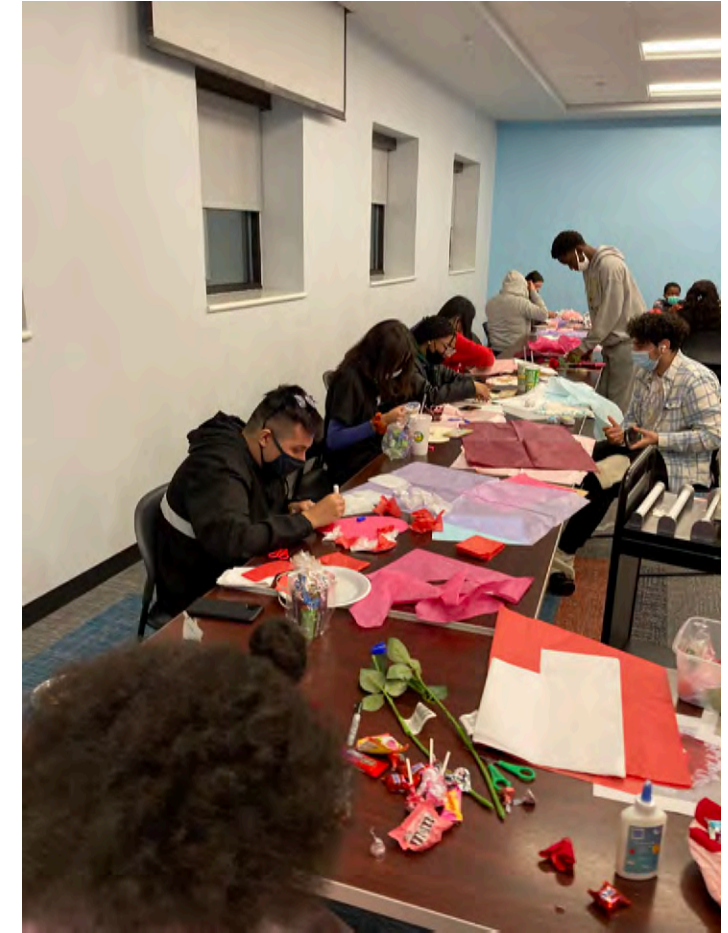
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# Goals & Objectives

- Recognize new techniques to provide teen programming in attendee's community
- Understand the importance of teens and the need for their engagement in the community
- Incorporate strategies for engaging teens in a positive manner



# Agenda

- Introductions/Goals & Objectives
- History of DeSoto Teens Pre-Master Plan
- Youth Masterplan
- New DeSoto Teen Council
- Roundtable with Audience Questions



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**How are you feeling about this session?**



# City of DeSoto

- ▮ Around 60,000
- ▮ 68.5 % African American
- ▮ 25% Under 18
- ▮ Known as “DeSoto U”
  - Errol Spence
  - Julian Mason
  - Von Miller
  - Jalen Mills
  - The Orrs



# History with Teens

- All American City Award
- Junior Civic Academy
- DeSoto Youth Advisory Council
- Youth Sports
- Partnership with DeSoto ISD





# Youth Masterplan Evolution

- ▀ We want effective community leaders!
- ▀ Fostering Opportunities = Long Term Sustainability
- ▀ Youth Masterplan – provides a template or guide for youth programming designed to address core needs in the community



# Stakeholders

- ▀ Huge Undertaking – Partnered with University of Texas at Arlington
- ▀ Community
- ▀ City Departments
- ▀ Local Businesses
- ▀ DeSoto ISD
- ▀ YOUTH!



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**What are survey questions that you can ask your teens?**



# DeSoto YMP's 4 Goals

- ▮ Collaboratively & Continuously identify youth needs
- ▮ Shared Vision that effectively serves the youth
- ▮ Coordinate effectiveness of youth services
- ▮ Ensure sustainability of the Youth Masterplan





# Focus Groups & Surveys

- ▀ Two Year Process
- ▀ Focus Groups and Surveys to DeSoto Youth, Community Partners, and staff serving the youth
- ▀ Questions included:
  - What programs, activities, or services would you like to see?
  - What are the biggest challenges faced in your community?
  - Does Desoto offer positive things for teens to do other than school activities?
  - Does the community provide leadership opportunities for youth?



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**What are survey questions that you can ask your teens?**

# Youth Masterplan Results

- ▀ Provide Programming in the following categories:
  - Education (incl. Civic Engagement)
  - Youth Health & Mental Wellness
  - Life Skills & Career Readiness
  - Sports and Recreation
- ▀ City Council approved the plan on May 18, 2021 – now what?









# DTC Benefits

The DeSoto Teen Council is comprised of DeSoto residents, ages 13-18. The council provides a formal process that fosters a heightened awareness of municipal operations, educational opportunities, health and mental wellness experiences, life skills, and career readiness.

## Benefits for Joining DeSoto Teen Council

- Letter of recommendation from City Administration, to include with college application
- Scholastic community service hours (subject to approval by the school liaison)
- A solid understanding of City Government and the services provided
- Introduction to impeccable skills involving better business etiquette
- Set the standard for TEEN INVOLVEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY!
- Employment Opportunities



# DTC Schedule

- Second Tuesday of each month
- Executive Board Meeting: 6:00-6:30 pm; Regular Meeting: 6:30-7:30pm

Schedule of Events	Month(s)	Performance Benchmark(s) Achieved
Intergenerational Programming	November, March	Health & Mental Wellness
City Council Civic Engagement	October, January, April	Civic Engagement
Education & Mentoring Programming	November, December, March	Life Skills & Career Readiness
Financial Literacy Programming	December, March, April	Life Skills & Career Readiness
TML Youth Advisory Commission Summit	February	Civic Engagement
Chat & Chew	March	Life Skills & Career Readiness
Everything Teen Expo	April	Health & Mental Wellness, Life Skills, Education, & Career Readiness

# Activity Snapshot

## ▀ Civic Engagement Dinner Series





# Activity Snapshot

## ▮ Hangin' with the Seniors





# Activity Snapshot

## ▮ Silent Party



# Activity Snapshot

- ▮ Cupcakes and Crafts with Cupid



# Activity Snapshot

- Let Teens Talk: Teen Dating Violence Awareness Seminar





# Activity Snapshot

## ▮ Open Mic Series





# Activity Snapshot

## ▮ Teen vs Millennials Kickball Tournament



# Activity Snapshot

- Texas Municipal League Youth Advisory Commission Summit



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**What are some teen programming opportunities that you either offer or can offer in the future for your community?**



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**What are you taking away from this session that you can implement in your community?**

# Quiz Time!!!



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## **What is not one of the Youth Masterplan Core Programming Areas?**

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.



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**In regards to sports, what is DeSoto known as?**

ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

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**Who did we partner with for the Youth Masterplan?**

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

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**True or False: This was a GREAT session.**

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.



# Questions



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## Audience Q&A Session

① Start presenting to display the audience questions on this slide.

# Let's Connect!



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# Thank You