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Florida League of Cities Announces Municipal Youth Council Community Service Contest Winners

Cape Coral, Niceville and Orange City youth councils recognized for volunteer service projects

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TALLAHASSEE, FL – The **Florida League of Cities (FLC)**, celebrating its 100th anniversary as the united voice for Florida’s municipal governments, today announced the winners of the 2022 Municipal Youth Council Community Service Contest. Hosted annually, this contest showcases community service projects performed by municipal youth councils that successfully address specific needs in their local communities.

Composed of high school students within the city, municipal youth councils are special councils that typically serve as an advisory board to the local government. They are sometimes referred to as youth corps, teen advisory boards or mayor’s youth councils.

“It’s so refreshing to see some of our younger residents as engaged in their local communities as these students are in theirs,” said **FLC President Phillip Walker, Commissioner** for the **City of Lakeland**. “On behalf of the League, we’re proud of the work they’re doing to support and improve their cities, and we congratulate this year’s contest winners.”

This year’s contest winners and their projects are:

- **City of Cape Coral Youth Council** – *“Community Service Challenge”*
- **City of Niceville Youth Advisory Council** – *“Carnival Fundraising Event”*
- **City of Orange City Youth Advisory Council** – *“Mill Lake Park Cleanup Event”*

The **City of Cape Coral Youth Council** launched the **“Community Service Challenge”** with the goal of engaging as many residents as possible in acts of service that help better their city. To promote the challenge, members of the Youth Council broke their efforts down into three categories: action, awareness and advocate. They began by performing acts of community service themselves, including cleanup events at local beaches. Then they encouraged fellow residents to join in with cleanup efforts of their own. The Youth Council also helped raise awareness of community service efforts by connecting with community members at various local events and sharing what they were doing, why it was important and how other residents could get involved. Through their efforts, they were able to not only

shine a light on community service and its many benefits to participants and the city, but also to get more of their fellow residents engaged in community service and involved in local projects.

The **City of Niceville Youth Advisory Council** focused their community service efforts on helping fellow Niceville residents in need. They partnered with a local nonprofit, the Emerald Coast Autism Center (ECAC), to host a “**Carnival Fundraising Event**” in conjunction with ECAC’s annual 5K race. The goal of the event was to raise money for the research, awareness and education of those with autism. Members of the Youth Council set up carnival-like booths for face painting, activities and games complete with candy and prizes. They also recruited local food trucks and volunteers to help work the event. Their efforts resulted in one of the biggest turnouts the ECAC has ever had at their annual race. They also helped raise roughly \$10,000.

The **City of Orange City Youth Advisory Council** focused on improving their city’s environmental well-being through their “**Mill Lake Park Cleanup Event.**” The Council collaborated with the City’s Parks and Recreation Department to organize the event, which invited residents to collectively work together to clean up and restore one of the City’s newest parks, Mill Lake Park. The event was a success. With more than 2,340 pounds of waste removed, residents can now enjoy the City’s newest park, free from trash and harmful waste. In addition, members of the Youth Council stated that the event raised awareness of the importance of environmental health and what residents can do to help improve it.

Contest winners will receive a trophy, be featured in the League’s award-winning magazine, Quality Cities (QC), and have their projects featured on the League’s website and social media accounts.

For information on the winning projects, [click here](#).

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Founded in 1922, the Florida League of Cities is the united voice for Florida’s municipal governments. Its goals are to promote local self-government and serve the needs of Florida’s cities, which are formed and governed by their citizens. The League believes in “Local Voices Making Local Choices,” which focuses on the impact citizens and city leaders have in improving Florida’s communities. For more information, visit flcities.com.