



The Teen Council is a partnership between Wonders & Worries and local teens 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade for a year-long commitment, rooted in the idea of training the next generation of volunteers and philanthropists.

During their year on the Teen Council, members will:

- Earn service hours by working together on a Wonders & Worries event
- Learn about giving back to the community through their time, talent, and resources as they plan and execute a Teen Council sponsored fundraiser for Wonders & Worries
- Develop transferable leadership and business skills while learning how to advocate and raise awareness to support children through a parent's illness

As a member of the Teen Council, you are agreeing to a \$500 Teen Council contribution and an annual commitment to Wonders & Worries starting with our kick-off event in September and ending with the Urban Scavenger Hunt in May. Through their participation, teens are guaranteed to receive 20 hours of community service credit. Up to 10+ additional hours can be earned by participating in other Wonders & Worries activities throughout the year.

Our schedule for 2018-2019 includes topics that will be presented to the teens by Wonders & Worries employees (including McCombs School of Business professor and W&W Executive Director Alex Gabbi), Board of Directors members, and experts from the business community. In addition, to promote shared learning and mentorship, Teen Council attendees may also be paired with students from the University of Texas at Austin for one or more activities.

A high-level schedule for the year follows:

- **September:** Kick-Off Event
- **October:** Overview of Non-Profits
- **November:** Leadership\*
- **December:** Volunteerism & Philanthropy
- **February:** Fundraiser Planning / Project Management\*
- **March:** Fundraiser Planning / Marketing
- **April:** Fundraiser (5K Dog Walk at Zilker Park)\*
- **May:** Urban Scavenger Hunt\*
- **May:** Teen Council Review and Celebration
- *Extra Volunteer Hour Opportunities: Salesforce/Web Site/Design Work, Teen App Work*

\*The November Leadership Meeting, February Planning Meeting, Teen Council Fundraiser, and Urban Scavenger Hunt are required events. However, the expectation is that teens will attend virtually all of the dates in order to earn their hours, particularly since no additional work in between meetings will be assigned or expected. If you have a conflict with any one of these dates, please contact us to arrange for an alternative solution.

Please note that to facilitate planning **all meetings will be held on a regular schedule of the second Tuesday of every month**. In addition, to ensure all Teen Council participants have a chance to develop their leadership skills, in lieu of having the same leadership team for the full year, each teen will have the opportunity to lead at minimum one activity over the course of the year.

### **Teen Council Differentiators**

1. Earn service hours and develop transferable leadership and business skills that look great on a college application
2. Feel the sense of personal accomplishment of putting on an event and raising real philanthropic dollars for a non-profit organization
3. Learn skills from local business executives and community leaders and then have the opportunity to immediately apply them
4. Develop a philanthropic, volunteer mindset and an appreciation for how non-profits work that can be carried forward for a lifetime
5. Have the opportunity to learn from mentors at the University of Texas at Austin and develop a college mindset

There are a lot of ways that you can earn service hours. But there is only one way to earn hours while learning in a structured environment and building skills that will be useful for the rest of your life – the Wonders & Worries Teen Council – all while making great new friendships.

### **Detailed Overview of the Year**

#### **September**

The September Kick-Off is the celebration to start the year. This is also the first opportunity for our entire Teen Council to come together and meet one another. Families are invited to attend with their teen and we will have food, games, team building activities, and a brief program overview.

#### **October**

Teens will be provided with an overview of the non-profit landscape by one or more local experts. They will have an opportunity to learn about and discuss what non-profits are, how they work, some of the challenges they face, support networks they have and how to start one. Next, they will get to put their newfound knowledge to work with some real-world case studies and exercises.

#### **November**

Our professional staff will work with teens to understand more about Wonders & Worries and how they can be advocates and leaders in their community for families experiencing an illness. Our professional staff members, all trained in the field of child life with additional professional degrees, have more than 100 years of combined experience. In addition to W&W training, teens will also have the opportunity to participate in a variety of leadership exercises moderated by a local human resources professional.

#### **December**

A local philanthropist and volunteer will speak to the Teen Council about the importance of giving back in the community through their time and the power of collective philanthropy and volunteerism. The guest speaker will then lead the teens through a variety of exercises geared toward developing their understanding of the large number of ways to give back and pay it forward.

#### **February / March**

A responsibility of the Teen Council is to organize and execute the Teen Council fundraiser for Wonders & Worries. The Teen Council Fundraiser is an annual 5K Dog Walk hosted in Zilker Park. In February, teens will learn the basics of project management from a local executive, and then be responsible for developing the project plan for the key activities related to the event. In March, teens will learn the basics of digital marketing from a local executive and then be responsible for developing and implementing an outreach plan to recruit event attendees.

#### **April**

The regular Teen Council meeting will be replaced with the 5K Dog Walk in early April.

#### **May**

#### **Urban Scavenger Hunt**

The teens will help set up for the Scavenger Hunt, assist with registration/check-in, and any needs during the after party giveaways. (If you have a scheduling conflict with this event, teens will be required to assist with another event)

#### **Teen Council Meeting**

The Teen Council will learn how to conduct a formal post-mortem and use those techniques to discuss the outcome of the fundraiser and did well/do better for next year. There will be dinner and dessert to celebrate the end of the year and all the hard work put forth.