



Town of Westwood

March 24, 2023

Dear Member of the Class of 2025,

I am writing to make you aware of a wonderful opportunity for you to serve the larger Westwood community. We are currently accepting applications from 10th graders to join the Youth & Family Services Advisory Board as a Student Board Member during their junior and senior years.

Westwood Youth & Family Services is a town department established in 1986 to promote the healthy development of Westwood residents and those attending Westwood Public Schools between 4-18 years old and their families. This mission is accomplished through providing mental health counseling services, social skills and community service programs. You might be familiar with some of our community service programs for high school students, such as Friends Network, Body Safety Theater, or Be SMARRT (Students Modeling & Advocating for Respectful Relationship @ Thurston) all part of the larger Mentor Program. Some of our more recent programming includes Westwood Writes: An Intergenerational Pen Pal Program and Calm & Cope: Anxiety Coping Groups for elementary school-aged residents. You can find more information about our program and services on the Town of Westwood website at www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/departments/youth-family-services as well as Instagram and Facebook.

The nineteen-member advisory board, made up of adults and students, is responsible for determining in which areas Youth & Family Services becomes actively involved and what programs are developed and thus has a very important role.

Our seniors, Nicola Midiri, Julia Ritzenberg, Jeremy Stern and Daniel Tryder will be leaving the board as of June and will need to be replaced. Our junior members, Nyla Bacchus, Lily Donnellan, Lucy Park and Ethan Walsh will be staying on for their senior year. Student members make a two-year commitment over their Junior and Senior years, are responsible for attending our Monday monthly meetings from 7:00-8:30 p.m., and are also requested to report on current activities/issues for high school-age Westwood residents. All members, both adult and student, are encouraged to voice their opinions and ask questions at meetings regarding the services we currently provide or might provide in the future. If you have any specific questions regarding membership, please feel free to call our office at (781) 320-1006 or speak with any of our current student members.

The enclosed application for membership should be returned by **Monday, April 10th**. Selected applicants will be invited for a brief interview with the Nominating Committee the **week of April 24th** and final decisions will be made in early May.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

Katy Colthart, LICSW
Director of Youth & Family Services

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P: 781.320.1006 Email: youth@townhall.westwood.ma.us
www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/departments/youth-family-services

Supporting the healthy development of children and families in Westwood since 1986

Westwood Youth & Family Services
Application for Student Board Membership

Please complete the following items in full. Please feel free to attach a separate sheet of paper if you need more room.

Name: _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email:

Please list any school or community activities that you are currently involved in:

Please describe in 50 words or less, your interest in serving as a student board member of Youth & Family Services Advisory Board:

What do you see as the most important issues, both good and bad, facing young people in Westwood?

Please take a few minutes to review our website www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/departments/youth-family-services, view our informational videos under the videos page and check out our social media pages. What programs stand out to you and where do you see opportunities for growth in our programming?

*Please return by **April 10th, 2023** to: Westwood Youth & Family Services, Wentworth Hall, 273 Washington Street, Westwood, MA 02090. You can also scan or take a photo of the completed application and email it to youth@townhall.westwood.ma.us. We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you. See reverse side for more information.*