

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the South Bend Youth Task Force?

The South Bend Youth Task Force (SBYTF) is a group led by South Bend area high school students partnering with adults in our community, which gives students a chance to let their voices be heard. Members of the Youth Task Force design and drive an advocacy program that targets issues that specifically affect the youth in our community.

How long has it been around?

The SBYTF was founded in March of 2014. Each class is chosen at the end of the school year for the next year and meets once a month throughout the school year. The current class is the fifth generation of SBYTF members.

Which South Bend city officials do they work with?

The SBYTF works directly with the Mayor's Office, which connects the students with community leaders and other city officials to guide them in the process of designing and carrying out their advocacy campaigns.

Who can be on the SBYTF?

The SBYTF is a community-based group open to all South Bend residents in grades 9th through 12th. Once a student is accepted to the SBYTF, he or she is invited to serve on the Task Force until graduation from high school.

How do I apply for the SBYTF?

It's as easy as filling out an application! A printable and online application will be made available on the City of South Bend's website the Spring of each school year.

What issues does the SBYTF address?

The SBYTF focuses on the origins of youth conflict, both emotional and physical, in hope to find the 'root cause' of conflict. By getting to the root cause, the SBYTF are then able to advocate specific de-escalation and conversational techniques to address conflict at the youth level.

How does the SBYTF contribute to keeping kids on track and giving them second chances?

The SBYTF works with city officials and their peers to understand and provide alternative plans of action for dealing with conflict. One of the goals of the SBYTF is to reduce violence among their classmates and friends, which will lead to a lower juvenile arrest rate, keeping kids safe and on track in school and their careers.

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