

Minutes

Scottsdale Mayor's Youth Council

August 31, 2026 4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.

Minutes of the MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL held on August 31, 2026 at 4:00 P.M. at the
Community Design Studio

Call to Order

SMYC President Siddhanth Gupta called the meeting to order at 4:12 P.M.

Attendance Roll Call

SMYC Secretary Vihaan Mehta

Pledge of Allegiance

SMYC President Siddhanth Gupta

Approval of Minutes

SMYC President Siddhanth Gupta

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

The Mayor's Youth Council welcomes public comment. According to the Arizona Meeting Law, the council may only discuss matters listed on its meeting agendas. Matters brought up by the public under public appearances that are not listed on the meeting agenda cannot be discussed over the Council. A three (3)-minute time limit per person will be in effect.

1. Photo with Communications Team

- Council Officers took a photo together, then the Council Committee Leads, and then the entire council took a photo together.
- The photo will be posted to the official S.M.Y.C. website in the coming weeks.

2. Updates (League of Towns and Cities)

- Select SMYC members shared that the event was successful overall, with the second half standing out as particularly interesting and highly interactive.
- Select SMYC members noted that the 5-minute networking sessions were a major success. It was a fun and valuable opportunity to bond and connect with people from towns and cities all over Arizona.
- Select SMYC members noted that the speaker sessions lacked engagement. There was too much talking, which made those segments feel long and boring compared to the interactive parts of the event.
- YFS Manager Kristine Hahn-Mcdonald shared that she would pass along the information to the organizers, and that feedback like this is what is key to improving the LTC for years to come.

3. City Clerk Office Presentation

- The City Clerk presented the overall structure of Scottsdale's government and how the City Clerk's office is organized.
 - Core Responsibilities: Detailed the four major areas managed by the City Clerk: records, administration, management of council meetings, and elections.
 - City Boards: Explained to SMYC members how various city boards work together, covering member term limits, nominations, and appointments.
 - Election Processes: Shared different primary election results with SMYC members and provided an in-depth breakdown of how elections operate within the city of Scottsdale.
- Interactive Activity: Hosted a Mentimeter game for fun prizes with SMYC members, where Eric W., Maren H., and Vihaan M. were the first, second, and third place winners, respectively.

4. SMYC 2026 - 2027: Initiative Discussion

- SMYC officers, committee leads, and members discussed the four tentative initiatives, listed below:
 1. **Communication Skills and Networking:** Focuses on learning verbal communication in relationships (counteracting heavy phone usage) and features entrepreneurial speakers discussing networking and public speaking.
 2. **Civic Engagement (Volunteer Fair & Non-Profits):** An event where high schoolers can connect with non-profits and government organizations to volunteer and make an impact. It would feature speakers discussing non-profit management, potentially focusing on water sustainability.
 3. **Distracted Driving:** No comment from SMYC. General consensus that it may be discussed in a later meeting.
 4. **Sustainability (Water):** A highly political topic concerning federal water issues that requires a speaker with an unbiased perspective. Needs to be discussed further at a later meeting. Might be merged with either Initiative 1 or 2.
- **Event Format (Volunteer Fair vs. Youth Town Hall):** Discussions centered on whether to host a Volunteer Fair (open forum), a Youth Town Hall (YTH), or a merged event. A tentative show of hands favored the Fair (21 votes) over YTH (10 votes), with officers tasked to flesh out both ideas further.

5. Future Meeting Date and Location

- Discussed upcoming meetings and activities, including:
 - September 14th: Real Time Crime Center and Alarm Room Tour (9065 E. Via Linda)
 - September 28th: Code Enforcement Presentation: AZ Room at Public Safety HS (8401 E. Indian School Rd)

Meeting adjourned by SMYC President Siddhanth Gupta at 5:41 P.M.

Minutes Prepared By: Vihaan Mehta, SMYC Secretary

Minutes Reviewed By: YFS Manager Kristy Hahn-McDonald, MSW, LCSW