

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bfkhVEryxJs>

## **Belleair Teen Council- “We Love Belleair”**

Florida League of Cities- 2018 Youth Council Video Competition

September 2018

The Town of Belleair Teen Council is comprised of 30 members ages 13-18 that are selected annually in August. The Teen Council meets once a month to discuss the operations of local government and to participate in guest lectures on various topics from professionals within the community.

The Belleair Teen Council originated in 2014 and has a standing tradition of completing a service project for the year. Our service projects have included helping fundraise and build a screened-in porch for a local UPARC resident cottage, a Hospice gift drive, Adopt-A-Family for Thanksgiving, and Socksgiving.

This year’s Florida League of Cities Youth Council Video Competition is the perfect start this year for our teens to showcase why “We Love Belleair.” Our video is comprised of “hidden” jewels of what makes the Town of Belleair a wonderful place to live and play.

Here are a few quotes from members of the 2018-2019 Teen Council on what they love most about serving in the community.

“Belleair and ‘The Rec’ is where we all grew up and being the Teen Council President means that I can learn more about our community and how we can make an impact.”- Lucie White, Belleair Teen Council President.

“I love Belleair because I love the location and the sense of community. I have lived in Belleair my entire life so it’s like a big family to me.”- Emma Robinson, Belleair Teen Council Vice President.

“I love Belleair for the community and all the different activities the Belleair Rec has to offer. Our parks are nice too! I like to be able to walk down the street and sit in a quiet outdoor space to do my homework.” -Anna Davis, Belleair Teen Council Secretary.

If the Belleair Teen Council wins the Florida League of Cities video competition, the group would like to purchase more socks to enhance our annual Socksgiving project and would also like to fundraise, plan, and implement an all-night lock in party for kids ages 10-13.

# TOWN OF BELLEAIR

MAYOR:  
GARY H. KATICA

COMMISSIONERS:  
KARLA RETTSTATT  
MICHAEL WILKINSON  
TOM SHELLY  
TOM KUREY

TOWN MANAGER:  
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September 18, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

Please let this letter serve as my recommendation for the Town of Belleair Teen Council's submission for the Florida League of Cities 2018 Municipal Youth Council Video Competition. As our group of teens works on their video, both myself and the rest of the Commission are looking forward to the final product that they complete.

Over the past several years, Belleair's Teen Council has grown in both size and impact, and our Commission couldn't be more proud of the great group of middle and high school students who comprise it. As the 2018-19 Teen Council is just kicking off for the year, we have almost thirty participants, including an elected Secretary, Vice President, and President.

Our Teen Council meets once per month and works with the Parks and Recreation Department to learn about local government, develop professional skills, and participate in and lead community events. Some Teen Council activities include receiving guest lectures from Town employees and elected officials, creating resumes and learning tips on professional success, and regular volunteering with Parks and Recreation events. In addition to this, our Teen Council selects one charitable cause each year and focuses on a community project outside of our organization.

Last year, our Teen Council was honored to receive the Florida League of Cities 2018 Youth Council Community Service Project Contest for their "Socksgiving" charity project that resulted in the collection and donation of 683 pairs of new socks to local persons in need. For this, our teens worked with RCS and Hands Across the Bay, where they directly helped those in need stay warm during the holiday season.

As we look forward to seeing what great things our Teen Council does next, it is my pleasure to write this letter of support for their video submission for the League's Youth Council Video Competition. Thank you for your consideration, and please reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Tom Shelly  
tshelly@townofbelleair.net