

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COLLABORATIVE
YOUTH SUMMIT SUMMARY
NOVEMBER 13, 2007

On November 13, 2007, forty-three students and five adult mentors attended a Youth Summit sponsored by the Healthy Communities Collaborative Youth Committee. These participants represented the following area school districts; Little Falls, Pierz, Royalton, Swanville, and Upsala.

The purpose of the Summit was to build stronger local leadership teams and to work on plans to achieve a specific local goals identified by those students attending the Summit. ***Here are the goals each local Youth Leadership Team will work on in their local (school) community:***

Pierz – Organize an open gym on weekends for high school students.

Swanville – Promote and carry through a local lock-in/fun night for grades 7-12.

Little Falls – Organize a community scavenger hunt.

Upsala – Organize a sports night for grades 7-12.

Royalton – Finish developing an infrastructure in which students can voice personal opinions on student decisions. New goal is to increase student relations and participation in the community.

Each team also provided an update on the goal(s) they set last spring.

- Pierz: Students checked on the possibility of revitalizing a swimming area/pool in Pierz. After doing some research, they found that developing a better swimming area in the city park or out at an area lake was not very possible. Most of the student's energy then went in to supporting the local PAC efforts.
- Little Falls: Students did some research on options for a teen/rec center. After visiting four such programs in central MN, along with the local efforts of starting a Boys and Girls Club, they decided to put these efforts on hold. They have been successful in organizing a Bowling Night for high school students at the Little Falls Bowling Center.
- Royalton: Students have been working on developing an internal school structure in which students can voice personal opinions on student decisions. So far a student Constitution and Bill of Rights have been developed. All the work on these efforts should be completed in early 2008.

The leaders of the local teams will serve on the HCC Youth Committee. The Youth Committee will facilitate the work on achieving the countywide goal of developing an intramural sports league. ***The student representatives that will serve as the HCC Youth Committee contacts are:***

Pierz: Eden Hanson & Matt Isder

Swanville: Tracy Fruechte & Amber Nuehring

Little Falls: Sydney Klinker, Sam Marcus, & Kyle Czech

Upsala: Alex Knettel & Gerard Kokett

Royalton: Adam Trettle & Ben Presler

The agenda for the Summit included: "True Colors" personality activity, Boys and Girls Club update, local goal setting and plans for implementation, lunch with the mayors, a speaker on empowering youth, and two students spoke about youth impact in the community.

In addition to the students and their mentors, three mayors, the county administrator, the director of Morrison County Public Health, and several county commissioners attended portions of the Summit. According to the evaluations the students provided of the Summit, the top three activities they enjoyed most were participating in the "True Colors" personality activity, having lunch with the mayors, and hearing from current high school volunteers about their impact in the Little Falls community.

Instead of asking students to attend the HCC Youth Committee meetings, the Youth Committee will travel to each school and meet with its respective Youth Leadership Team as follows: December – Pierz, January – Swanville, February – Upsala, March – LFCCHS, and April – Royalton. The next Summit will be held in March or April of 2008.

Compiled by Mary Kenna

Youth Summit Participants November 13th, 2007

Pierz Healy High School (7)

Dottie Stumpf – 9th
Racheal Gottwalt – 10th
Eden Hanson – 10th
Matt Isder – 10th
Jacob Nelson – 10th
Cody Robinson – 10th
Jesse Hillyer – 12th
Alison Medeck

Little Falls Community H.S. (9)

Brad Chatfield – 9th
Andy Hott – 9th
Jessica Zehowski – 9th
Ethan Mustonen – 10th
Ben Surma – 10th
Sydney Klinker – 11th
Sara Peterson – 11th
Sam Marcus – 11th
Kyle Czech – 12th
Sue Wasland

Royalton High School (7)

Odin Geurard – 10th
Shelby Lies – 11th
Rachel Popp – 12th
Ben Presler – 12th
Rachel Smude – 12th
Adam Trettel – 12th
Neil Zimmerman – 12th
Lee Obermiller

Mary of Lourdes M.S. (4)

Jessica Hanowski – 8th
Brenna Holmes – 8th
Maggie Moe – 8th
Preston Zimny – 8th
Maria Heymens Becker

Swanville High School (8)

Shelly Brenhaug – 9th
Brittney Walter – 9th
Bonnie Shields – 10th
Jesup Taylor – 10th
Tracy Fruechte – 11th
Amber Neuhring – 11th
Jayna Harthan – 12th
Jenna Hollermann – 12th
Char Bzdok

Upsala High School (8)

Aimee Harren – 12th
Nikki Johnson – 11th
Gerard Kokett – 11th
Anna Peterson – 11th
Kayla Ripplinger – 11th
Kaitlyn Roerick – 11th
Michelle Johnson – 11th
Alex Knettel – 12th
Jay Hatfield