

## Surprise Community Youth Leadership Program

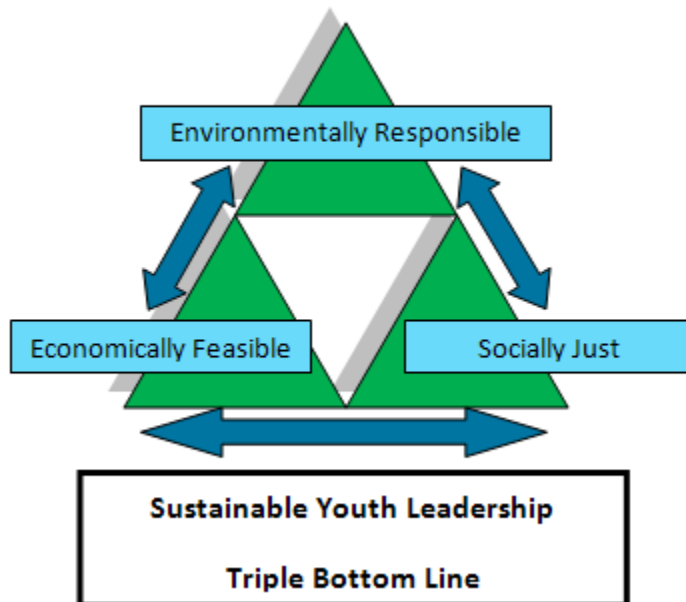
- **Vision**

To provide meaningful experiences for youth regarding leadership, profession, and community engagement.

- **Mission**

Career Exploration transforms the youth learning experience through:

- Leadership opportunities that are supported with mentors through actual experiences
- Professional development in focus areas that empower youth to explore their passion in work
- Community engagement projects that increase awareness and action related to quality of life issues



- **Education Programs**

The educational program's purpose is to provide the participants with realistic and relevant subject matter that is directly related to leadership and citizenry. In addition, the participants will have access to job shadowing experiences to bridge the context of leadership, community initiatives, and profession.

- **Project**

The team project will center on a civic challenge and/or opportunity. The teams will work with a subject matter expert to offer possible solutions and/or approaches to improve a specific community initiative. Upon completion of the project, teams will present their projects to an expert panel for scoring. The scoring rubric will be provided to participants prior to engaging in the community project.

- **Teams**

Teams will consist of no less than three and no more than five members. Each team will be made up of students from the same high school, so teams will be playing for "their school." Teams will be encouraged to develop a unique identity to build esprit de corps and will self-organize to accomplish the tasks involved in their project. Every team member will be expected to contribute his or her unique talents to accomplish the goals of the team. At the end of the project, each mentor will provide his or her respective team member with a written evaluation of his or her contribution and constructive suggestions for improvement. These evaluations could be utilized as letters of recommendation for students seeking jobs or admission to institutions of higher education.

- **Mentor**

Mentors will be volunteers drawn from the ranks of active or retired professionals and leaders from the community who have knowledge of and interest in community improvement and engagement. They will be drawn from different backgrounds that parallel the topics covered in the educational component of the program. All mentors will be screened using procedures in place at Dysart Unified School District for volunteers.

The role of the mentor will be to coach the team, assist the team to find resources, help it make contacts and generally support its efforts. The mentor will not be expected to manage the team. The team is expected to do this itself and to struggle with the issues of leadership and teamwork, even if it results from time to time in failure. Although each team will be competing against each

other, the mentors will work collectively as a group to help ensure that all teams have the best chance at success in their ventures.

- **Project Scope**

The project scopes are expected to meet several expectations:

- Have a significant community benefit for the Surprise-El Mirage community
- Involve interaction with one or more government, education, and/or non-profit entities or the general public
- Be able to be implemented over the project period
- Require leadership and teamwork to be implemented

- **Graduation Ceremony**

Description

The graduation ceremony will be a special experience for the participants. It will be a formal affair that includes a keynote speaker, an opportunity to recognize the achievement of the participants/teams and reflect on the program, and allow others in attendance to demonstrate pride in their community and with their youth leaders.

## The Surprise Community Youth Leadership Education Program Schedule

<b>Program/Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
Green Day Sustainability	Communiversities @ Surprise	10/17/2009	8:00a.m. – 1:00p.m.
Municipal Government	Communiversities @ Surprise	10/24/2009	8:00a.m. – 1:00p.m.
Education	Communiversities @ Surprise	11/07/2009	8:00a.m. – 1:00p.m.
Community Initiatives	Communiversities @ Surprise	11/14/2009	8:00a.m. – 1:00p.m.

