



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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South Suburban Parks and Recreation's First Youth Commission Formally Inducted during Board Meeting

Members of South Suburban Parks and Recreation's newly-established Youth Commission were formally inducted during the July 9 board meeting. The teens will help advise South Suburban staff on what is important to youth and teens who live and play in the area. The Commission will also provide members an opportunity to practice their skills in critical thinking, communications and creativity, as well as volunteer and give back to the community.

In April, South Suburban Park and Recreation's Board of Directors authorized the formation of a Youth Commission and approved the Charter. The Youth Commission was formed in order to provide an opportunity for area youth to be involved with local government, to become a conduit for staff to reach this age group and to promote volunteerism.

Staff interviewed candidates, and those chosen were formally appointed to the Youth Commission. The following are members of the District's first Youth Commission:

Ali Abbas is the son of Fazal and Sabeena Abbas. Ali is a 9th grader at Cherry Creek High School and is an aspiring soccer player, who loves the sport. He is hoping to interject a sense of fun into the Commission.

Megan Bolt is the daughter of David Bolt and Ana Tolentino. Megan is a senior at Chatfield High school. Her interest in the Commission stems from her family's involvement in the District. She is excited to pursue some leadership skills while on the Commission. Megan is an active volunteer in the community and has amassed hundreds of volunteer hours.

Sam Hansen, is the son of Risa Hansen, and is a 10th grader at Arapahoe High School. He is an active District VolunTeen and is passionate about providing great customer service for the District. Sam is an Eagle Scout and wants to be a pharmacist.

Sierra Kimes is the daughter of Karen Kimes and Jeff Kimes, and is an 8th grader at Euclid Middle School. Sierra is a District VolunTeen. She loves riding horses and is interested in providing places for teens to gather and interact.

Audrey Koenig is the daughter of Lynda and David Koenig, and is a freshman at Cherry Creek High School. She is currently a District VolunTeen, and she wants to expand her community involvement through the Commission. While taking a class through South Suburban, Audrey discovered Irish Step Dancing and loves it! When she gets older, Audrey wants to start a non-profit to help the homeless.

Amelia Rhea is the daughter of Jennifer and Jason Rhea, and is a 9th grader at Heritage High School. She has the acting bug and is ready to meet other people. She is a District VolunTeen, and loves living in Littleton.

Bailey Thompson is the daughter of Susan and Mark Thompson, and is a freshman at Arapahoe High school. She is interested in bringing healthy initiatives to youth in the community. She has a passion for highlighting problems facing people with disabilities.

Dong Wook Lee is the son of Yong-Beom Lee and Eunkyung Choi, and is sophomore at Cherry Creek High School. He is currently a District VolunTeen and is interested in becoming more involved with his community. His goal is to increase the communication between South Suburban while increasing the presence of the teen population.

The Youth Commission will serve in an advisory role to the District's Recreation and Community Services Department. The Commission will meet monthly in the evenings.