

Junior RCA Program Overview

The mission of the Rowayton Civic Association (RCA) is to enrich the lives of Rowayton residents and neighbors through providing cultural programs, educational events and supporting local community initiatives. The RCA is non-political and non-sectarian and invites all residents to become involved through volunteerism and helping to identify the needs of our community. The activities of the RCA are planned and coordinated by a 25-member Executive Board.

In 2015, the RCA Executive Board formed the Junior RCA as a partner organization to support the activities of the RCA and to encourage civic engagement among local high school students. Junior RCA members are involved in the planning and execution of RCA-sponsored events and they are also expected to plan at least one self-directed civic project each program year. The program year runs each year from March to December.

Membership

Students members are eligible to join the Junior RCA if they are in their sophomore year of high school or above. Members are expected to remain active in the program until the fall of their senior year of high school. Active members can continue participating until the end of their senior year if they choose to remain involved.

Students apply to the program through contact with a current executive member of the RCA. If the student meets all requirements listed below and is approved by the Executive Board, the student will be considered a member of the Junior RCA.

Requirements

- Members must be high school sophomore or higher
- Must be residents of Rowayton
- Must participate in at least 3 RCA events each year
- Attendance at scheduled meetings (~2x per year) of the Junior RCA
- Completion of an approved civic project, either with the annual community project (see below), or working independently on a project approved by the RCA Executive Board.

Activities of the Jr. RCA

All programs and events of the RCA events are run by volunteers, and Jr. RCA members play important roles at each of these events. Each event has a lead organizing committee from the RCA who will be responsible for managing the Jr. RCA team assigned to that event. A complete listing of RCA events is either attached to this document or available online at Rowaytoncurrents.com.

Depending on individual interest, members of the Jr. RCA will also have opportunities to participate in meetings of the Executive Board, work on the RCA's print publication and website, assist with fundraising, or to become involved in other RCA-sponsored community programs like the Rowayton Youth Underground. Any members who are interested in becoming further involved should speak with one of the Jr. RCA program coordinators.

Governance

President – The RCA board members will elect a President (or co-Presidents) to lead the Jr. RCA and to be the main point of contact with the RCA board. The President will organize and motivate volunteers and work with lead event coordinators to ensure that Jr. RCA participants are supporting RCA events.

Vice President/Secretary – Assist President(s) as liaison between Jr. RCA and RCA Board members. Support effective communications between members and RCA event leads. Assist with scheduling events in order to avoid conflicts with school activities. Take notes at Jr. RCA meetings to distribute to Jr RCA members and Jr. RCA program coordinators.

Annual Community Project

Members should work together to plan and execute one community project each year. The project should be designed to benefit the residents of Rowayton and/or surrounding communities. The project is to be devised by the Jr. RCA members and presented to the RCA Executive Board for Approval. If funding is required, the presentation should include a budget request. The project could be a community service-type project, or might take the form of a community event similar to the events that are planned and coordinated by the RCA.

Recruiting New Members

Part of the role of Jr. RCA members is to assist the RCA executive board in recruiting new members to the Jr. RCA. Given the short term of service of Jr. RCA members, it is important to bring in new members each year to ensure the sustainability of the organization. Each outgoing member will be expected to recommend at least one new member for consideration.

Benefits of Membership

Participants will participate with their peers and with adult community leaders in a fun environment and have opportunities to make meaningful contribution to their community. Participants will be recognized at events, in Currents magazine, and on the

RCA website. The RCA executive committee will make themselves available as mentors to Jr. RCA participants and will commit to support active members' college application process through recommendation letters and/or providing recommendations for employment.