



# Empowering Youth with Engagement Strategies

*Looking to the future through the **EYES** of our future.*

The Tawas City Empowering Youth with Engagement Strategies (EYES) program was developed to engage our youth and receive their perspectives and opinions regarding the very important decisions the City makes about the future of Tawas City.

Tawas City EYES participants will hold a nonvoting seat on the Tawas City Planning Commission/Parks Board. This board consists of seven (7) additional members: one (1) representative from the City Council, and six (6) residents and/or community members who are appointed by the City Council.

## What does the Planning Commission/Park Board do?

Michigan laws charge the Planning Commission with a large job. Among a long list of responsibilities, members make recommendations for the boundaries of the various zoning districts and the appropriate regulations to be enforced. Members also review zoning applications for new commercial uses and any special land uses.

One of the most important jobs of the Planning Commission is the preparation of the City's Master Plan. This document outlines the community's vision for the future and is the basis for or influence in the community's future, environmental protection, economic development, zoning, and other regulatory ordinances.

The Tawas City Planning Commission also acts as the Parks and Recreation Board, which is one of the most exciting parts of their responsibilities. Members are involved in making decisions regarding the development of the various parks and recreational activities in the City, and they are responsible for preparing the Parks and Recreation Plan.

## How often are the meetings and where are they held?

The Tawas City Planning Commission/Park Board usually meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Some meetings may be moved to the second Tuesday of the month, but are done with ample notice.

### Tawas City EYES participants will:

- ❖ Provide a younger perspective for discussions regarding community and civic issues
- ❖ Provide a voice for young people who may be affected by the City's decisions
- ❖ Bring a deeper understanding of the youth-related decisions the City may be considering
- ❖ Explain the City's goals and vision to other youth in the community
- ❖ Learn how local government and boards work, and learn meeting etiquette, facilitation, listening, diplomacy, and other skills necessary to be engaged and active in the community
- ❖ Learn to embrace a supported leadership role in the community

Meetings are held in the Council Chamber of Tawas City Hall located at 550 West Lake Street in Tawas City. When the law allows, meetings may be held electronically.

Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from the meetings.

### What is the time commitment?

Participants are expected to attend meetings that are held during the school year (September to May) but may attend additional meetings through the summer months if so desired. Although there are some exceptions, most meetings are less than an hour long.

Upon appointment to the program, participants will be assigned an advisor. This person will act as a liaison between the school and the City of Tawas City. Participants will be expected to keep the advisor updated on all absences and meeting conflicts, such as sports or academic commitments. Participants are expected to attend nine (9) meetings, but there may be opportunities to make up missed meetings in coordination with the City Manager and the advisor.

The advisor may ask participants to prepare a presentation for a classroom assignment to share their experiences in the Tawas City EYES program with their peers.

### Who can apply?

The Tawas City EYES program is open to students who are entering their junior or senior year of high school, and who attend Tawas Area High School, the Alternative Education Academy, or are home-schooled, and who are interested in being involved in the community. Although not a requirement, preference may be given to individuals who are residents of the City of Tawas City.

#### What are the benefits for Tawas City EYES participants?

- ❖ Access to leadership in both local government and businesses
- ❖ High quality, organized, and focused leadership development experience
- ❖ Learn about local government and community-based organizations with an emphasis in collaboration
- ❖ Learn how to lead and follow for community enhancement
- ❖ \$500 scholarship toward continued education
- ❖ Opportunity for references from community leaders and business owners

#### What can the Tawas City EYES participants expect?

- ❖ Participate in monthly meetings which will involve group decision making and some public speaking
- ❖ Review new business and development plans as they are presented to the City
- ❖ Assist in developing project ideas
- ❖ Help set the vision for the future of Tawas City

### What is the application process?

Complete and sign the application form and submit it with the required attachments which include a written response to questions and two (2) recommendation forms. **All information must be submitted by 1:00 pm on Friday, May 20, 2022.**

### Where can I get more information?

Please call Tawas City Hall at (989) 362-8688 or email the City Manager at [manager@tawascity.org](mailto:manager@tawascity.org) for more information. Interested individuals are encouraged to attend a Planning Commission/Park Board meeting prior to applying.



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## Applicant

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

School Currently Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade in School \_\_\_\_\_

## Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

The Tawas City Planning Commission/Park Board usually meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Some meetings may need to be moved to the second Tuesday of the month, but are done with ample notice. Meetings are held at Tawas City Hall located at 550 West Lake Street in Tawas City. Participants are expected to make their own arrangements for transportation to and from meetings. When the law allows, meetings may be held electronically.

Can you provide your own transportation or make arrangements for transportation to and from the Tawas City Planning Commission/Park Board meetings?  Yes  No

## Commitment Statements

With my signature below, I understand that the Tawas City Empowering Youth with Engagement Strategies program is an important leadership role for youth and the community. I am fully prepared to fulfill the commitment to the City of Tawas City, including being a good representative of and for the youth in the Tawas Area, and working hard to positively contribute to the future of the community.

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

With my signature below, I support and grant my permission for my teen’s participation in the Tawas City Empowering Youth with Engagement Strategies program.

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Help us get to know you!

To help us make a decision on who will participate in the Tawas City EYES program, we'd like to get to know our applicants better. On a separate page, please respond to the questions below. Your responses should be in a 12-point font and may be single spaced.

- Tell us about yourself. What are your interests, school activities, leadership positions, hobbies/skills, volunteer experience, etc.?
- Are you involved in any sports, clubs, employment, or other personal activities that may cause you to miss any of the meetings? If so, please include the details of them in your response.
- Why is public service important to you?
- What do you feel are some of the biggest problems our Tawas community faces?
- Where do you see yourself in five (5) years?
- How do you feel serving on the Tawas City Planning Commission/Park Board will help you with your plans for your future?
- Is there anything else we should know about you that may help us in making our decision?

## Recommendations

The Tawas City EYES program requires two (2) recommendation forms. One of the recommendations must be from either a current teacher or a teacher you had in the immediately preceding school year. The other recommendation may be from another teacher, school employee, coach, employer, pastor, neighbor, or anyone else who knows you... but please, no relatives. Please provide a copy of the next page to the individuals you choose to complete your recommendation forms and submit the completed forms with your application.

## Submitting Your Application

The completed application along with the supporting documentation is due by **1:00 pm on Friday, May 20, 2022**. The first Planning Commission/Park Board meeting that participants will be expected to participate in is at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, September 13, 2022. Applications may be submitted any of the following ways:

**Email:** [manager@tawascity.org](mailto:manager@tawascity.org)

**Drop Off:** Tawas City Hall  
550 West Lake Street, Tawas City

**Mail:** Tawas City Hall  
PO Box 568, Tawas City, Michigan 48764

### Submission Checklist

- ✓ Completed and signed application
- ✓ Written responses to "Help us get to know you!" questions
- ✓ Two (2) recommendation forms

Questions may be directed to Annge Horning, Tawas City Manager, at [manager@tawascity.org](mailto:manager@tawascity.org) or (989) 362-8688.



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## Recommendation Form

The Tawas City Empowering Youth with Engagement Strategies (EYES) program was developed to engage our youth and receive their perspectives and opinions regarding the very important decisions the City makes about the future of Tawas City. Your recommendation of the individual listed below will be considered when we review the applications and choose who will participate in the Tawas City EYES program.

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person Making Recommendation \_\_\_\_\_

How do you know and how long have you known the applicant?

Why do you feel this individual will be a good representative of and for the youth in the Tawas Area while participating in the Tawas City EYES program?

Please provide any additional information that may assist us in making a decision.

Signature of Person Making Recommendation \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**We thank you for giving your time to complete this recommendation  
and for your support of the Tawas City EYES program!**