

# Grove City Borough's



## Junior Council Program

# Presentation Overview

- ▶ Purpose and structure of Grove City Borough's Junior Council Program (JCP)
  - ▶ Selection Process
- ▶ Evolution of Grove City Borough's JCP
  - ▶ Where the program is now
- ▶ Benefits and costs of a junior council program
- ▶ Summary/questions and comments
  - ▶ Where the previous members are now





# Purpose and structure of the JCP

- ▶ The purpose of the program is to provide students with an opportunity to learn about and contribute to their local government.
- ▶ The Junior Council is composed of Grove City High School junior and senior class representative that alternate representing the Junior Council at Grove City Borough Council meetings. Additional candidates that are not selected are given the opportunity to participate with the JCP committee.
- ▶ The JCP has the opportunity to share in any discussion and provides a monthly report at the Grove City Borough Council meeting. Reports have included:
  - ▶ Summaries of community events
  - ▶ Interviews of Borough Council Members and employees



# Selection Process

- ▶ Borough representatives contact GCHS Guidance office April/May.
- ▶ Sophomores are requested to apply and/or Borough representatives attend an assembly where interested students can hear from borough officials and ask questions.
- ▶ Borough representatives interview all applicants.
- ▶ Borough representatives select a sophomore to fill the next year Junior class position.
- ▶ Remaining applicants are all invited to serve on the JCP Committee in order to give all applicants local government experience.
- ▶ Both the Junior & Senior class Junior Council Representatives lead the JCP committee meetings.



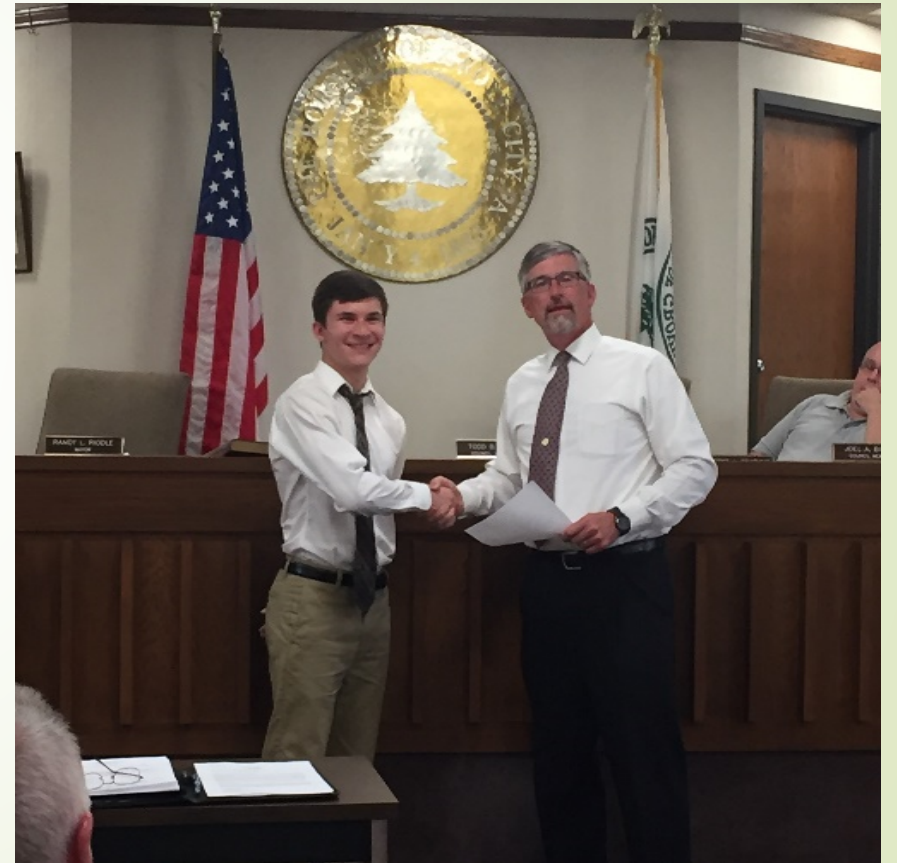


# Evolution of the Program

- ▶ The program began with a single junior class student (Jonathon Lamarca) in August of 2011, who served for two years.
- ▶ The program then changed to include two high school senior class students (Steven Shi and Samuel Archibald) in 2013.
- ▶ Then in 2014, the program changed again, instead selecting two junior class students (Alaina Thomas and Ethan Foley) to allow students to get more than one year of experience.
- ▶ With the departure of one of the 2014 student members, the vacancy was filled by a junior class student (Cammie Messer) and provided the program with a greater level of continuity in transitioning between student participants.

# Where is the Program is now?

- ▶ With the most recent addition to the Junior Council (Maxwell Boshaw) the JCP has continued the selection of a junior class representative to serve a two year term and has also help create the JCP Committee.
- ▶ The JCP Committee has allowed a greater participation amongst students, providing more with the opportunity to be involved in their local government.





# Benefits and Costs of the Program

## Benefits

- ▶ Students gain an opportunity to learn about and participate with their local government.
- ▶ The Borough Council engages the youth of the community.
- ▶ Students have another source for community service.
- ▶ The community benefits from additional service projects.

## Costs

- ▶ The cost of this program is minimal.
- ▶ The time spent is better described as an investment than a cost.

# Summary

- ▶ Over the past six years the program has changed and grown into a worthwhile and productive endeavor.
- ▶ Examples of community projects and reports that have come from this include:
  - ▶ Food bank
  - ▶ Halloween parade
  - ▶ Pancake breakfast
  - ▶ Clean Mile







# Where they are now...

Previous participants continue their college education in varying fields of study.

One of the participants, Ethan Foley, is actively pursuing a degree in political science at the University of Vermont.

Serving as a JCP helped him in the following ways:

- ▶ 1. Helped him realize my passion for community service.
- ▶ 2. Gave him a foundation for future governmental positions.
- ▶ 3. Fun experiential learning opportunity.
- ▶ 4. Enjoyed being able to communicate with elected council members.
- ▶ 5. Now is a Senator on the University of Vermont SGA.
- ▶ 6. Able to apply his local government experience right away.
- ▶ 7. Will be seeking a career in PUBLIC SERVICE!!!!!!!