



# Ridgway-Elk County Chamber of Commerce

## Jr. Steering Committee

### Coordinators

Ridgway-Elk County Chamber Youth Development Committee

### Partnering Councils

- Ridgway-Elk County Chamber of Commerce
- Ridgway Borough
- Ridgway Township
- Ridgway Heritage Council
- Ridgway Area School District
- Ridgway Historical Society
- Ridgway Public Library

### Targeted Audience

Ridgway High School and ECC (Ridgway Residents) Students  
Grades 9-12

### Mission

To empower local youth to be engaged in their community and to develop and encourage their leadership skills by providing them with an opportunity to have a voice as a member of a community organization. By recognizing that youth have a different set of skills, intense passions and a unique journey, each organization will reflect upon their values by inviting new fresh perspectives on issues within their organization and community.

### Goals of Partnering Councils

- To select at least two Jr. Members to serve on each Partnering Council.
- To serve as mentors to youth who will be future leaders in their communities.
- To prepare youth with skills that will develop and encourage their leadership styles and abilities.
- To provide youth a path to contribute to the development of their community.
- To promote a desire for youth to serve their community as members of various advisory Boards and Commissions throughout their adult life.

### Youth Benefits

Youth will become more confident in expressing their opinions and ideas, develop self-confidence, and build leadership skills.

- The opportunity to address and deliberate on issues that are affecting their community.
- The opportunity to meet and network with professional members of the community.
- The opportunity to discover and demonstrate essential skills (team building/collaboration, public speaking/engagement, budgeting)
- The opportunity for career development

### Guidelines

- Jr. Member must reside in the Ridgway Borough or Township and entering grades 9-12.
- Jr. Member term will run September-June each year.
- Jr. Member may be appointed for 1 or 2 year terms.
- Jr. Member Attendance is required at monthly meetings. (Jr. Member Attendance at budget sessions, public hearings, and community events should be encouraged)
- Jr. Member will be provided with list of regular meeting dates at beginning of term and provided advanced notice of special/committee meetings scheduled throughout the term.
- Jr. Members cannot participate in executive session.
- Jr. Member will be seated with officers/council, participate in regular business, and observe all organization rules.
- Jr. Member will be assigned a mentor who will provide an orientation of the organization to understand its mission, goals and rules. This should occur within 30 days of the start of their term. Continued mentoring throughout the term should be provided to ensure the Jr. member understands all aspects of the organization and purpose within the community.
- Jr. Member will be assigned a project to complete throughout their term that addresses an issue within the organization or community and contributes to the development of their leadership skills and abilities.
- Jr. Member will educate peers and promote youth involvement in the community.
- Partners and Jr. Members will attend Orientation and End of Term Ceremony (Jr. Member will give presentation at End of Year Ceremony summarizing their organization, activities engaged in, project completion and future goals)
- Partnering Councils with National Jr. Committee Memberships may follow additional guidelines and requirements as per their organizational regulations.



This experience sponsored by:  
The Ridgway Chamber & CEC DISCOVER Partnership Program



# Jr. Steering Committee Applications

## Youth Application Process

1. Completed Application
2. Letter of Interest stating why you want to be a Jr. Committee Member
3. Return Applications and Letter by July 15<sup>th</sup> to the Ridgway Chamber on Main Street.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_ RHS \_\_\_ ECC \_\_\_ Home School  
 Grade: \_\_\_ 9<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_ 10<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_ 11<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_ 12<sup>th</sup>

School activities and positions held:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Extracurricular, volunteer, or community activities  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Honors or awards:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Future/Graduation plans (if known)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

I understand this is a commitment and it is my responsibility to attend all monthly meetings and notify my mentor in advance if I cannot make a meeting.

## WHICH ORGANIZATION WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK WITH

Please number in order of your preference with 1 being most preferred and 6 being least preferred. Leave blank for the ones you have no interest in or not eligible due to where you reside. Also note the meeting days and times each month.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Ridgway-Elk County Chamber (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays 7:30AM)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ridgway Heritage Council (1st Tuesdays 7:00PM)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ridgway Area School District (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays 6:30PM)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ridgway Historical Society (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays 6:00PM)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ridgway Library (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays 7:00pm)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ridgway Borough (must live in the Borough) (3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays 7:00PM)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ridgway Township (must live in Township) (3<sup>rd</sup> Tues 7:00 PM)

**Ridgway-Elk County Chamber of Commerce** - A Chamber of Commerce works with the businesses in the community to promote interest and support economic growth. If you have an interest in Business, Marketing, Entrepreneurship and/or creating a better community, this may be a good fit for you.

**Ridgway Borough** - Oversees the operation of our community within the Borough. If you have an interest in local government, business and community development, this may be a good fit for you. (must live in the Borough)

**Ridgway Township** - Oversees the operation of our community within the Township. If you have an interest in local government, business and community development, this may be a good fit for you. (must live in the Township)

**Ridgway Heritage Council** - The Ridgway Heritage Council is dedicated to downtown revitalization with a focus on historic preservation. Formed in 1997 in response to continued deterioration of our Main Street and the closing of a major anchor store, the group is dedicated to retaining and improving the many special qualities of our beautiful and friendly hometown! If you have an interest in history, design, journalism, or communications, this may be a good fit for you.

**Ridgway Area School District** - The RASD Board consists of nine community members who work together to ensure that the students in our schools receive the best education possible. The board meets to make decisions regarding school policies, budget allocations, and educational goals. If you have an interest in becoming a teacher, this may be a good fit for you.

**Ridgway Historical Society** - The Elk County Historical Society began in 1964. It has grown considerably over the years and now house over 10,000 items! They continue to serve the community by improving their genealogy research room, planning educational events and programs, and closely working with the local schools to provide field trips. If you have a love of history or journalism, this may be a good fit for you.

**Ridgway Public Library** - The public library is a staple in our community and great resource for those seeking information, programs or a good book. If you have a love for reading, communications or teaching, this may be a good fit for you.