What is expected to be a youth member of Happy Hollow Foundation’s Board of Directors? In a nutshell:

- Be a passionate advocate for Happy Hollow Foundation and Happy Hollow Park & Zoo.
- Be a high school student in good standing.
- Attend monthly board meetings as a non-voting member of the board of directors.
- Fulfill one-year board term, from July 1-June 30.
- Complete one special project within the one-year term.
- Assist in the foundation’s overall fundraising efforts.

Introduction

Happy Hollow Park & Zoo, which is owned and operated by the City of San Jose, has been beloved by Bay Area families since it opened in 1961. Today it is a San Jose treasure that boasts a unique combination of family rides, play and picnic areas, a puppet theater, and a modern, accredited zoo with more than 150 animals and 70 species, from endangered lemurs to red pandas. Happy Hollow incorporates conservation into all activities — from facility operations and guest education, to species survival and the Quarters for Conservation program. It is the first LEED Gold certified amusement park and zoo in the United States.

Happy Hollow Foundation is a nonprofit organization established in 1958. The Foundation’s mission is to engage individual donors, foundations, corporations and government agencies in helping to advance the mission of Happy Hollow Park & Zoo, which exists to provide an affordable, sustainable, conservation-oriented outdoor adventure for families, schools, and children of all ages.

Happy Hollow Foundation is a partner with — and an ambassador for — Happy Hollow Park & Zoo, supporting its mission to connect people to nature through play.

Happy Hollow Foundation’s vision is to:

- Build relationships to support the mission of Happy Hollow Park & Zoo.
- Boost awareness of Happy Hollow in the Bay Area.
- Nurture and grow a pool of donors who are passionate advocates for the park and zoo.
- Engage guests, donors and sponsors to protect and appreciate animals and their habitats worldwide.
- Fund field trips and classroom programs for Title I schools.
- Provide enjoyable family experiences through play, including arts, theater, playgrounds and rides.
Terms and Participation
A Youth Board Member serves a one-year term (July 1-June 30). The maximum length of service is two years. Board meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Wednesday from 5-7 p.m. For the time being, board meetings are virtual with a few in-person gatherings throughout the year.

Because many Happy Hollow programs serve the youth in our community, we want to have that voice represented on our board. We understand that a youth member has limited resources and time, so we have created a position that’s a win-win.

How Happy Hollow Foundation wins:
● Having a young, passionate board member who can provide a fresh perspective.
● Providing an educational opportunity to learn about board service in a safe, fun environment.
● Getting a tangible tool from our Youth Board Member through their special project.

How Youth Board member wins:
● Learning about how to serve on a nonprofit board of directors (your volunteer service will be eligible for community service hours).
● Having an opportunity to take on a special project that will have a positive impact on the park and zoo and, by extension, the community.
● Learning important life skills and experiences to help you navigate life after high school.

Special Project
The special project will be something the Youth Board Member will develop with the Executive Director, Board President and General Manager of Happy Hollow. The past youth board members have done a variety of projects, including a social media campaign and an educational booklet. Here are a few thoughts to help generate your own ideas:
● Create a 2-minute video that showcases something cool about Happy Hollow.
● Create a piece of artwork (mural, painting, sculpture) for the park.
● Develop a plan to highlight three areas of improvement to attract high school students to the park and zoo.
● Dream, develop, and present a plan for an awesome event for high school students at the park and zoo.

The end product will be something utilized by the park and zoo and be presented at the June board meeting. Let’s have fun crafting this project together!

Questions? Contact Amy Pizarro, Executive Director, at apizarro@happyhollow.org.

Revised March 2022