



FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

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Alachua Named 2023 Municipal Youth Council Community Service Contest Winner

Youth Council recognized by Florida League of Cities for volunteer service projects

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TALLAHASSEE, FL – The **Florida League of Cities (FLC)**, the united voice for Florida’s municipal governments, announced the **City of Alachua Youth Advisory Council** as one of three winners of the 2023 Municipal Youth Council Community Service Contest. The annual competition showcases community service projects performed by municipal youth councils that successfully address specific needs in their local communities.

Municipal youth councils are special councils that typically serve as advisory board to the local governments. They are composed of high school students within the city and are sometimes referred to as youth corps, teen advisory boards or mayor’s youth councils.

“It is inspiring to see our future leaders taking action and making a positive impact in their communities,” said **FLC President Jolien Caraballo, Vice Mayor** for the **City of Port St. Lucie**. “The Florida League of Cities is proud of the work these students are doing to support and improve their cities. On behalf of the League, congratulations to this year’s contest winners!”

The Alachua Youth Advisory Council partnered with the Alachua County Quilt Remembrance Project through the Equal Justice Initiative to construct a publicly displayed quilt to remember lynching victims in the Alachua area. The victims were represented with embroidered name blocks and quotes, which gave a voice to those whose voices were taken. The Youth Council played a major role in the planning, embroidering and quilting process with guidance from well-established quilters in the area. The students designed several of the name blocks, and the color of the embroidery threads chosen by a Youth Council member are the colors in the City’s emblem. The quilt is currently displayed in the City Hall front lobby.

The **City of Fort Pierce Youth Council** and the **City of West Park Youth Council** were also named winners in the statewide competition. Contest winners will receive a trophy and be featured by the League’s award-winning magazine, Quality Cities (QC), as well as on the League’s website and social media outlets.

For more information on the winning projects, visit flcities.com/youthcouncils.

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Founded in 1922, the Florida League of Cities is the united voice for Florida's municipal governments. Its goals are to promote local self-government and serve the needs of Florida's cities, which are formed and governed by their citizens. The League believes in "Local Voices Making Local Choices," which focuses on the impact citizens and city leaders have in improving Florida's communities. For more information, visit flcities.com.