

Members Roster & Bios

Jasmine Jones

Jasmine Jones is a senior at Charles Drew High School. She holds the office of historian in Drew's National Honor Society chapter and is also a member of the National Art Honors Society there. What does the Riverdale Youth Council mean to Jasmine? It means that she is a member of an organization that is much bigger than her. Being a part of it, for her, has been a humbling and rewarding experience. She has had the opportunity to meet and develop lasting relationships with individuals she otherwise would not have known. Her membership in the Riverdale Youth Council has molded her into the responsible young lady that she is today.

Kirk Willabus

Kirk Willabus has been a member of the Youth Council since 2008. He is entering his final year of high school; ranked 8th in his class based on his GPA. He is a part-time dual-enrollment student, which means he is still enrolled at Charles Drew High School, and takes classes at Clayton State University. Not only is Kirk challenging himself academically, he is actively involved in organizations at Drew such as: National Honor's society, Technology Student Association, Future Business Leaders of America, and he has officially established Charles Drew High School's first National Beta Club. An organization he plans to leave as president, a high standard for so that those who follow will continue to be active members in their community through their school. But the trail to his success doesn't stop there; Kirk is also working on developing his own non-profit organization. He enjoys spending time with family and friends, listening to music, and traveling in his free time. He aspires to attend Georgia Institute of Technology, where he will major in mechanical engineering. We can see that he is a very determined young man and this will not be the last time we hear about him.

Nghia Le

Nghia Le is a senior at Charles R. Drew High school and also a freshman at Clayton State University. The Youth Council is a place in which he can have an input that will benefit the community and the people in it. It is also a place in which he can do his best to help whenever necessary. But most of all, it is a place in which he can make a difference. Those are the motives that drive him to do whatever he can to help whoever needs it.

Kirk Bailey

Kirk Bailey has been a member of the Youth Council since 2010. He is entering his final year of high school in August. He is a full-time dual-enrollment student, meaning that while he is still enrolled at Charles Drew High School, he takes no classes there and is a full-time college student at Clayton State University. Despite seldom visits back to his high school, Kirk still retains membership in the National Honor Society and Technology Student Association, and hopes to be far more active in these organizations during his senior year. Kirk values Youth Council because it has given him a great avenue to do what he did before joining the Council, and will continue to do after becoming an alumni of the organization, which is giving back to the community in which he has grown into a respectable young man. He enjoys spending time with the people he loves, listening to music, gaming, traveling, and reading the occasional book in his free time. He aspires to become a programmer and work in the gaming industry before pursuing entrepreneurship by attending Columbia University in New York City and majoring in Computer Science.

Naya Arnold

Why the Riverdale Youth Council is important to Naya? RYC is important to Naya because it affords her the opportunity to identify and address relevant community issues that affect young people and to encourage greater community involvement for all preteens and teens. RYC allows Naya and other youths to share the community leaders' vision of an active and empowered youth population.

More of Naya's goals as a member of the RYC are to develop policies focused on youth issues, organizing youth-related community events, encouraging and establishing a tradition of youth participation in the community. In her spare time, Naya plays the violin; she is a theatre student and enjoys singing and acting

Jonecia Trice

Jonecia Trice is a senior at Riverdale High School. She is in her school's FBLA (Future Business Leader of America). She is in a program called BDPA (Black Data Processing Associates) HSCC (High School Computer Competition), which is a program that teaches high school students computer programming. She is also a semi-finalist in the Governor's Honors Program. What does the Riverdale Youth Council mean to Jonecia? To her it means that she is involved in something that could change or make a difference to someone. It is an opportunity to learn about government and how to run an official council. Being in the RYC means that Jonecia's opinion actually matters. The Riverdale Youth Council gives her a sense of responsibility. She is given a task and she has to complete it in a given time or it will have an effect on the whole council. It gives her a purpose; if she does something it will affect someone in the end.

Zack Blair

I am a dedicated senior attending Charles Drew High School. I participate in marching and concert band, wrestling, Anime Club, GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance), guitar club, and SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions). I am a low brass section leader in band, a (usual) varsity wrestler, future Anime Club president, and a junior class representative in SADD. While my many extra curricular activities take up much of my time, I also manage to balance three Advanced Placement classes (AP Language and Composition, AP Chemistry, and AP Studio Art). During our last fiscal year (August to May) in the Riverdale Youth Council, I was elected the official council parliamentarian.

To me, the youth council is a place where I can make a difference. It is something I can put time and effort into, then look back in five years and say to myself 'You've made the best of your time.' As we work toward our goals, I feel confidence building up deep inside to the point that I feel like I can accomplish anything I put my mind to- and I can, thanks to the council. I have put three years of hard work and dedication into this organization and I plan of putting in another before going to college.

Jazzmine Walker

Jazzmine has been in the youth council since it was first established in 2008. She previously held the position of secretary in the youth council, until the election for officers came around last fall. She is a senior at Charles R. Drew High School and has the title of an honor student. Also, she is a part of her schools' Yearbook Committee and National Honor Society. Jazzmine participates in almost all the council's community service events and when she can't attend some she tries to make it up by giving 100% while working on the council's next project. Next, year will be her final year at the school and afterwards in the fall she will be attending college, though it is still undecided where she will be attending. The years that she has been a part of the Riverdale Youth Council have been enlightening, crazy, and fun. Jazzmine has found that many doors are opened for her with the help of the many advisors on the council through their mentoring, connections, and many ideas. With the council she feels as if she has accomplished things for both her community and herself through the community service projects the Riverdale Youth Council participate in. In all the Riverdale Youth Council has been an important part of her life with all it does for her and her fellow council members.

Maya Arnold

Maya Arnold is a rising junior at KIPP Atlanta Collegiate and is a proud member of the National Beta Club. Maya is an Alumna of the National Youth Leadership Conference where she spends much of her time interacting with young leaders from across the nation. Maya is an avid swimmer who enjoys competitive cheerleading, Track & Field, and plays seasonal Volleyball. Maya has been an active member of the Riverdale Youth Council (RYC) since its inception in 2008.

What does being in the Riverdale Youth council mean to her? It means that she is developing the correct leadership, intellectual, and social skills needed to become a civic-minded, responsible adult. Being on the RYC allows Maya to gain invaluable insight into the inner-workings of local government. It also affords her the opportunity to make important connections and to influence change in or around her community. Maya has big plans to practice pediatric neurology alongside Dr. Ben Carson. She currently holds one of the highest

averages in both Math and Chemistry in her grade level. With continuous ambition and good judgment, each passing day brings her closer to her goal.

