

UPDATE:

YOUTH COMMISSION ACTIVITIES AND RISING STAR SCHOLARSHIP

TOWN COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 3, 2026

CHAIR EVAN GEORGE AND TREASURER JACKSON YOUNG



WHAT IS THE YOUTH COMMISSION?

- Approved by Town Council Jan. 7, 2025 — first members appointed in September 2025
- Comprised of nine high school students throughout Castle Rock, grades 9-12
 - Chair Evan George, Vice Chair Abigail Reynolds, Treasurer Jackson Young, Secretary Mei James.
Ryan Agresti, Chris Gawlikowski, Matthew Hans, Yusuf Saydey, Liliana Turk. Honorary Member Jake Coover.
- Serve in an advisory capacity to the Town Council with the following duties/core concepts:

Involvement | Communication | Engagement | Recognition

- Meetings the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall



INVOLVEMENT

- Involvement in local government
 - Sept. 8, 2025, Town tour with Castle Rock Fire, Water, Police Departments
 - Sept. 15, 2025, Crystal Valley Interchange tour
 - Sept. 29, 2025, Douglas County Youth Congress (discussions with adult leaders)
 - Sept. 30, 2025, State of the Town
 - Oct. 20, 2025, Boards and Commissions Appreciation event
 - Dec. 11, 2025, State of the County
 - Upcoming: Feb. 12 Student Winter Legislative Kick-Off at State Capitol



COMMUNICATION

- Express the voices of teens in Castle Rock
 - Video about Youth Commission featured at State of the Town event, on Town social media
 - Festival of Trees, a small tree that gave toys out to kids in Festival Park to raise awareness of the Commission
- Through civilized discussion, we have given back to Castle Rock — our commissioners bring ideas on how to help others
- The Brief
 - Published monthly by project lead Lilianna Turk to capture Commission activities
- Future events
 - Collaborate with Town Communications Division to advertise Youth Commission activities and Rising Star Scholarship



ENGAGEMENT

- Organize, plan and participate in youth service projects, events and functions
 - Oct. 15, 2025, Spooktacular — helped young residents enjoy games and prizes
 - Oct. 25, 2025, Countywide youth commission cleanup of Wilcox Building lawn
 - Nov. 13, 2025, Project Linus — made fleece blankets for children in need, led by Vice Chair Abigail Reynolds
 - December 2025, Adopt-A-Child and Giving Tree — commissioners shopped and provided gift cards for local children in need
- Future events
 - March 2026 Spikeball fundraiser supporting CVHS DECA and Make-A-Wish, led by Ryan Agresti



RECOGNITION

- Recognize youth through Outstanding Youth Leadership and Service in Castle Rock award
 - Jesminda Richmond
 - Matthew Kelsey
 - Josh Niell
 - Riley Agan



RISING STAR SCHOLARSHIP

- Gives Castle Rock seniors \$1,000 to pursue secondary education
- Encourages the youth of Castle Rock to develop, give back to the community and learn more
- Youth Commission votes on the recipients
- Awarded to teens who display exceptional involvement in community and character
- Applications open this week and will remain open through March 31 — we'll be back to present the awards at Council's May 5 meeting



The poster features the Town of Castle Rock logo at the top, with the text 'TOWN OF CASTLE ROCK COLORADO' and 'Rising Star Scholarship' in large, bold letters. A yellow starburst graphic is positioned to the right of the title. Below the title, it states 'PRESENTED BY THE CASTLE ROCK YOUTH COMMISSION'. The poster lists eligibility criteria, award details, and application information. A QR code is located on the right side, with the text 'Scan to learn more' below it. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of a crowd of graduates celebrating with their caps.

**TOWN OF
CASTLE ROCK
COLORADO**

Rising Star Scholarship

PRESENTED BY THE CASTLE ROCK YOUTH COMMISSION

Eligibility criteria

- You must be a senior in high school, graduating in spring 2026
- You have to live in Castle Rock or attend a high school in Castle Rock. Homeschool students living in Castle Rock may apply
- You should be able to explain how you've been involved in community service or made other positive contributions to our community

Award details

- You will be notified by April 20 if you are selected as a scholarship recipient
- Recipients will be celebrated at an award ceremony during the Town Council meeting on May 5 at 6 p.m.
- At least four winners will receive a \$1,000 award each
- Scholarships will go directly to higher education institutions and are nonrenewable

**Contact bschnorr@CRgov.com with questions.
Learn more at CRgov.com/RisingStar.**

There is no cost to participate in the scholarship application process.

Applications open Feb. 3 through March 31

Scan to learn more

