

WWBPA Student Advisor Requirements

The all-volunteer West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance (WWBPA) annually selects a group of high school students to be student advisors to the organization. The student advisors work with the Board of Trustees to plan events and advocate for improvements that help make West Windsor and neighboring communities more bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly. This is an excellent way for students to make a difference in their community while developing organizational skills, helping to plan and publicize events, and learning to advocate for improvements.

All students in the West Windsor-Plainsboro school district and all West Windsor residents who attend other area schools or are being home-schooled are eligible to be student advisors to the WWBPA. Once an application for a student advisor is approved, the position becomes effective at the WWBPA's annual meeting and continues for 12 months. Students must reapply each year for reappointment.

Applicants will be asked to tell a bit about themselves and to discuss what they would like to accomplish as student advisors. This year's deadline for applications is February 20, 2012.

Student advisors are expected to do the following:

- Join the WWBPA, if not a member already. The student's membership can be part of a family membership. This is a requirement that must be met when the application is submitted.
- Attend at least 6 of 12 monthly trustee meetings. The meetings take place at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday evening of the month at the West Windsor Municipal Center.
- Spend at least 16 hours during the year working on WWBPA projects with other members, including the other student advisors. Of the 16 hours, at least 4 of those hours must be spent helping at the WWBPA booth at the West Windsor Farmers' Market. WWBPA has a booth biweekly from May through October (the months the Farmers' Market is open).

The remaining hours of volunteering can be spent helping with a variety of activities including:

- Taking part in a membership activity. This may include writing renewal letters to current members, talking to people about joining at events where we have a booth, or promoting the organization at the student's high school.
- Helping with two main WWBPA events during the year: the annual Community Bike Ride in the fall and a walk in the spring. Both of these events require planning, publicity, and recruitment of volunteers to help on the day of the event. Student advisors are expected to help with at least one of these activities ahead of the event in addition to helping on the day of the event.
- Organizing one other activity during the year, either individually or working with other student advisors. In the past, student advisors have organized trail-clearing events and helped with bicycle drives. This activity could be a project involving school or something discussed in the application.
- Leaving comments on the WWBPA Facebook page and contributing to the WWBPA Web site and newsletter.

The prospective student advisors should attend the WWBPA annual meeting on March 8, 2012, which is when they will be appointed. Prior to the meeting, candidates will be notified whether they have been accepted.

Once the student advisors are appointed, one of the WWBPA trustees will be a liaison/mentor to the students. The student advisors are expected to select:

- Two student advisors to co-chair the annual Community Bike Ride in the fall and two other student advisors to co-chair the walk in the spring. There will also be one adult member chairing each event.
- One or two students to act as a liaison to the WWBPA trustees, keeping the trustees informed about ideas and projects on which the student advisors are working.