

Pathways 2 Possibility

United Way of Santa Cruz County

Empowering Scotts Valley's Youth



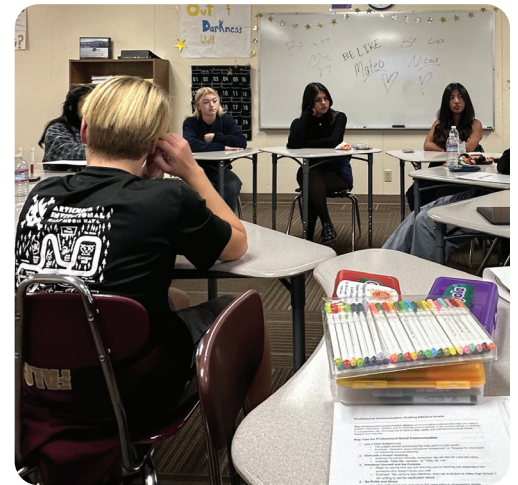
THE CHALLENGE

Many youth in Scotts Valley are dealing with significant challenges, including elevated rates of social-emotional concerns and substance abuse, all of which are compounded for Black, Indigenous and other people of color (BIPOC) students by a lack of representation and culturally responsive resources. The city also lacks dedicated funding for youth programs outside of school, leaving young people without safe spaces for enrichment, socialization and leadership development. These gaps perpetuate isolation, inequity and unmet needs, undermining the well-being and long-term potential of Scotts Valley's youth.

WHY IT MATTERS

Every young person, regardless of background, deserves access to opportunities that foster their well-being and help them thrive. Investing in youth programs and youth-adult partnerships reflects core community values like respect, care, belonging, equity and youth voice. When young people are given a platform to share their experiences, shape solutions and influence policy, their perspectives help strengthen community decision-making and investment in their futures.

By prioritizing youth-adult partnerships, the community can co-create more just, sustainable and inclusive systems and programs. These partnerships build trust, foster mutual respect and empower youth to develop leadership skills while encouraging adults to broaden their perspectives and embrace new ideas.



THE SOLUTION

In April 2026, the Scotts Valley City Council approved the establishment of a Youth City Liaison Program developed in partnership with Pathways 2 Possibility, including an ongoing \$1,300 allocation to support two student participants serving as Youth Liaisons to the City Council. The policy solution advances long-term efforts to create dedicated funding and leadership opportunities for youth by ensuring young people have a direct voice in local decision-making while promoting culturally responsive programming, safe spaces, and inclusive community engagement opportunities — particularly for BIPOC youth.

View the [Scotts Valley City Council Meeting Agenda & Video](#)

Meeting Agenda: <https://tinyurl.com/2vejht4>
Video: <https://tinyurl.com/23vbhkb3>

