

# **Amarillo Activity Youth Center**

In today's fast paced environment the activities and happenings of our youth are often overlooked and the youth of Amarillo are left to find something to occupy their time. This situation has resulted in many youth straying from safety and doing many unlawful and unjust acts. The AAYC wants to help put an end to this by providing affordable structured programs that our youth and their families can participate in.

## **Our Goals**

1. Create programs that foster good citizenship and morals in the youth of Amarillo through the use of adult volunteers and donations
2. Provide opportunities for the youth and families of Amarillo to grow and become more successful
3. Provide a place for our youth to relax, off the street in a safe, healthy environment.

## **Our Vision Statement**

To provide new exciting programs while maintaining our current programs that will foster positive values while concurrently increasing the involvement at the AAYC by bringing in more youth along with increasing our volunteer and donor base.

## **Our Mission Statement**

The AAYC exists to provide safe, fun, affordable recreational activities for the youth and families in an alcohol/drug free wholesome environment

## **Location**

The AAYC is located in downtown Amarillo at 816 S Van Buren and we have a web presence at [www.amarilloyouth.net](http://www.amarilloyouth.net). We are in building that was built in the 1940 as a youth center and the building is in much need of upgrades and repair. Currently much of our fundraise efforts are to refurbish the building and bring more programs and activities into the center.

## **Coaches and Staff**

In December of 2011 the AAYC removed all paying positions at the center. The AAYC is ran off a volunteer base and we no longer pay any of our staff, directors or coaches.

## **Fundraising**

We are planning on have three annual fundraisers to keep the center fully funded: Center City Mayhem (haunted house); Amarillo Family Fun Run/Walk, and the Amarillo Youth Car Rally/Show.

Prior to 2012 we had one fundraising event a year; haunted house but with the economy heading the way it is we find that this one major fundraiser is not enough to cover all our needs.

## Our Programs

### Fencing

The AAYC runs a modern Olympic style fencing program. This program has affected hundreds of youth over the years. The students are taught a highly competitive sport and are taught the rich traditions, values and respect that this sport demands. This program is different from most fencing programs because it is made available to everyone regardless of income or means, not just those that can afford it.

### AAU Fast Break Basketball

In November of 2012 the AAYC became a member of the national AAU Basketball program and we have a great basketball gym and an excellence developmental program where we spend countless hours teaching the sport and mentoring with the students. This is a new and evolved program at the AAYC that will allow us to reach many more youth.

### Haunted House Program

Our haunted house is not just a fundraiser, it's a program and project that many of our youth participate in. We teach basics of scene design, makeup, and costuming that can be applied in any theater setting. We teach the youth how to frame temporary walls and provide support beams and such. The youth involved learn how to use the tools and basic build principles that are no longer taught in most of the schools or at home. The youth in the program also help with the marketing and promotion of the event and learn how to present themselves in front of groups for marketing and promotional events.

### Community Service Program

We have partnered with the City of Amarillo's Court system in the Teen court Program where students do community service to work off tickets and other violations. We have been working with the Amarillo Teen court program since 2007. We also work individually with the local schools, honor societies and the Boy Scouts to help with projects throughout the city and with-in our Organization as well. We try to instill into our youth and families that everyone needs to give back to the community in some form or shape.

### Other Programs

In a short narrative it is impossible to list all the activities and programs that available at the AAYC. Some of our smaller programs include: Chess Club, AAYC Ink Blots (drawing club), AAYC Nightmares Soccer Team (indoor), Amarillo Actors Guild, Amarillo Streampunk Association, ad Yellow City Breakdancers/Hip- Hop.

The AAYC has various other programs and activities that come and go throughout the year for youth as opportunities are presented to our center. Before a program is added to our listings we determine how the youth and families will be impacted and if the program meets the needs of the families that we serve.