

Teens4Green

TEEA 2017 Winner: Youth



Student-run environmental club partners with city to grow environmental awareness.

Teens4Green is a service-based club focused on environmental awareness and enhancement that was created by Frisco teens, for Frisco teens. Founded in 2014, Teens4Green collaborates with the city's Environmental Services department to host events that aim to educate the community and recruit volunteers to help with litter abatement and beautification. In 2016, they hosted 43 events where teens dedicated over 900 volunteer hours. The events fall under four themes — pollution prevention, community outreach, agriculture, and education. Teens work together to protect the environment while developing marketable skills, helping them become the environmental leaders our future needs.

Since its inception, Teens4Green has grown to more than 330 registered members. The innovative use of multiple technology platforms allows the club's officers to reach their members, who receive a bi-weekly electronic newsletter about upcoming events, such as workshops on green cleaning and DIY personal-care products. Teens4Green members educate workshop attendees about how to reduce harmful chemicals in their daily routines and teach them how to reduce waste by reusing old products.

The City of Frisco estimates that Teens4Green saved the city over \$18,000 in 2016 with their generous contribution of volunteer hours. Teens4Green assists the city by providing support and cleanup for city events. In return, the teens receive guidance and assistance from city staff that helps them host high-quality events of their own with no out-of-pocket expense. Last year, the teens assisted with event preparation and registration, litter cleanup, and managing recycling stations during Frisco's annual Earth Day Celebration where over 2,000 community volunteers removed one ton of trash from Frisco's streets and parks.

Whenever there is an event in Frisco, it is safe to say that Teens4Green will be there, leading by example and making a positive change in their community. The selfless, service-minded work these teens exhibit sets an example for all citizens of the great state of Texas. Members of the group care about protecting the Lone Star State, and for them, it all starts with their own community.