



SVDM Teen Council

2025-2026

The Teen council of the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum is being established to give our communities youth a voice in the museums programming, as well as provide opportunities for professional and leadership development.

Selected applicants will have the opportunity to learn about the running of non-profits from a variety of local guest speakers, and get hands-on experience in helping to develop our annual Noon Years Eve and Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader? events.



Qualifications

- Must reside in Winchester City, Frederick County, or Clarke County.
- Be currently enrolled in either an accredited public or private high school or home-school.
- Be entering the ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade at the beginning of council program year.
- Able to commit to attending meetings from 5 pm - 6 pm, 2 Tuesdays a month from October - April.

Selection Process

15- 20 participants will be selected, depending on the pool of qualified applicants. Interested parties should fill out the online application no later than Friday, September 26th. Qualified applicants will be selected for a brief interview. The council meetings will begin Tuesday, October 14th.





About the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum

Mission

The Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum's mission is to spark curiosity & inspire learning through exploration & creative play.

History

Since opening in the spring of 1996, the Museum's mission had been fulfilled far beyond the expectations of the three founders who spearheaded its development. The original five exhibits based at 54 S. Loudoun Street in Winchester, Virginia and constructed by committed community volunteers instilled in children a sense of wonder and hunger for knowledge. In response to community demand, additional galleries were added to allow room for special exhibits and activities.

In May 2014, the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum (SVDM) moved to a newly renovated 1950's former furniture building off of the historic walking mall in downtown Winchester. The 19,200 sq. foot expanse of space lends a bright and welcoming environment where over 70,000 people visit annually. The new museum space has been a resounding success with 14 exhibitions, a rotating menu of weekly programs, and a retinue of partnerships and visiting educators.

Volunteers at SVDM

Members of the SVDM Teen Committee are considered volunteers of the museum. As a non-profit children focused organization, we strive to provide an environment where children and their caregivers can explore, play and learn in a safe and exciting place, and as a volunteer you can help us do that! The Discovery Museum began as a group of volunteers nearly 30 years ago and has continued to grow and thrive thanks to wonderful volunteers ever since





SVDM Teen Council

2025-2026 Schedule

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are Tuesdays, 5 pm - 6 pm
at the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum

Date	Meeting Goals
10/14	Welcome, Get to know each other, discuss goals for the year
10/28	Officer Elections, Guest Speaker
11/10	Introduction Noon Years Eve Event, Guest Speaker
11/25	No Meeting- Thanksgiving Break
12/2	Noon Years Eve Brainstorming
12/16	Prepare Noon Years Eve Activities
12/30	Optional work meeting if needed
Wed. 12/31 9:30 am -12pm	Noon Years Eve Event





SVDM Teen Council

2025-2026 Schedule

Date	Meeting Goals
1/13	Guest Speaker- How to run a successful fundraiser, Intro to "Are You Smarter than a 5 th Grader?" Event
1/27	From Committees, begin work on Are You Smarter
2/8	Continue working in committees
2/24	Continue working in committees
3/9	Final work meeting and prep for Are You Smarter
3/23	Optional work meeting for any final items
tbd	Are You Smarter than a 5 th Grader? Event
4/7	Event Debrief
4/21	End of Year Party

Additional Guest speakers may be added as scheduling allows.

