

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Step Up for Kids is a national, non-partisan, event held every year to make the message clear that children in our state are a priority. Step Up for Kids brings awareness to the issues American children and families face, (such as access to early child care and learning, afterschool programs, poverty, child abuse and neglect, and health care) and provides ways to help improve our community.

This year to help get kids more involved in the political process and its importance, Strong Start for Children will be hosting a Kid Mayor election during the Step up for Kids event! Kid Mayor will give your child the chance to learn about basic political and campaigning skills in a fun and engaging way while allowing them to interact with their community. The Reno Step Up event will be held either the last week of September or first week of October. We are verifying the date and location and will let the finalists know by the week of July 9th, 2018.

### **How do you apply to be a candidate?**

Children starting either 4th or 5th grade in the Fall of 2018 living in the Carson or Washoe County area are eligible to apply. Any child that meets these guidelines and who has permission from their parent or guardian can submit an application. The application for Kid Mayor includes eligibility requirements, responsibilities if elected, consent to participate, campaigning rules, and respectful conduct. We ask that both the candidate and the parent/guardian read and sign the application so we know that everyone is aware of the rules and commitment. **The application is due Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

### **What happens after you apply?**

A maximum of five finalists will be selected by the Strong Start Advisory Council and the Step Up for Kids Planning Committee to campaign for the election at the Step Up for Kids Event. If your child is selected as a finalist, you will be notified the week of July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Please remember that all finalists must be available to attend the Step Up for Kids Event at the end of September. If your child is not selected as a finalist we hope that you will still join us for the Step Up for Kids event and participate in the activities that day.

The five finalists will be invited to attend a candidate orientation to learn more about Step Up for Kids, Kid Mayor and how to campaign. Finalists will be featured on our Step Up for Kids and Strong Start social media posts on Twitter and Facebook. The posts will include a short bio of the finalists as well as their picture. Pictures and videos will also be taken during the Step Up for Kids event. Please be sure to sign the Media Release portion of the application.

Finalists will be asked to campaign during the Step Up for Kids event, by introducing themselves to attendees as well as give a short 2 to 3-minute speech during the Step Up for Kids Event. We will go over this in greater detail at the candidate orientation. We invite you to bring your family and friends to support your child during the event, however please be aware that Kid Mayor is a campaign for Kids by Kids, therefore, ONLY kids ages 18 and under are eligible to vote. Strong Start Nevada wants this to be a positive and respectful learning opportunity for all children

## **What happens if your child is elected Kid Mayor?**

If your child is elected as Kid Mayor, they will hold this position for one year until the next election takes place in September 2019. During the year we hope to have several community events for your child to participate in but we understand that you may not be able to attend all of the events. We expect that you will be able to attend at least one event during the year and we will work with your schedule to make that happen. Also, we expect the winner to help with one community project related to their campaign issue and to make one small commercial/public service announcement. We will also work with you to create this message and it should not take more than a few hours to complete.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to call us at 775.440.1767 or email us at [strongstart@caanv.org](mailto:strongstart@caanv.org).

Thank you for reading this information about the Kid Mayor election. We hope your child will consider running for Kid Mayor at the Step Up for Kids Event this year! We look forward to reading all the amazing applications that will come through!

For more information and to download the Kid Mayor Application, please visit [strongstartnevada.org/en/kid-mayor/](http://strongstartnevada.org/en/kid-mayor/).

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