



Calling Metro Atlanta Teen Leaders

Do you get mad sitting in traffic?

Do you think we should conserve more water?

Do you wish you could do something to end homelessness?

Would you like to make life better for the elderly?

If you have ideas about how to address metro Atlanta's challenges and if you want to make your community a better place to live, the **Model Atlanta Regional Commission (MARC)** wants you.

Creating a great place to live is the work of many people. And, each year some 55 high school students get a chance to share their ideas with the region's leaders through **MARC**.

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) – the official planning agency for the 10-county Atlanta region – created this a dynamic youth leadership program almost 15 years ago to bring together teen leaders from high schools throughout the metro area who want to make a difference in their community.



“If you have the opportunity to participate in MARC, there should be no hesitation because it gets you so involved in your community.”

— Trey Wagers, Community Christian School



Model Atlanta Regional Commission

A Program of the Atlanta Regional Commission



“You get a real insight into Metro Atlanta’s problems, and how to fix them.”

— Krishan Patel, Woodstock High School

What MARC Members Do

As a MARC member, you will learn about how metro Atlanta works. You will take part in hands-on exercises and go on field trips to some of the region’s most interesting places. You will learn about transportation, water supply, land use, sustainability and human services. You will explore what makes a community more livable and how local governments work together to address regional needs.

You will develop and debate proposals to solve the regional problems that concern you the most. Finally, you will present your ideas for making metro Atlanta a better place to live to the ARC board.

Here are just a few resolutions proposed by previous classes:

- The creation of a website to inform the region’s youth about regional issues.
- Expansion of community composting programs
- A lobbying effort to bring high-speed rail to metro Atlanta.
- A mentoring program staffed by teen leaders for elementary and middle school students.

Selection Process

Applications go to every public and private high school in metro Atlanta in February for the MARC class that begins the following September. Students currently in the 9th and 10th grades are eligible to apply.

Students must submit a completed application, a letter of recommendation from a teacher and a written essay about the regional issue that interests them the most.

“MARC exposes us to leadership experiences and opportunities that will help us grow and help our region grow in smarter ways.”

— Polly Zintak, Grady High School.

The selection committee considers a combination of factors — academic achievement, extracurricular activities, level of interest, the written essay and recommendations.

Notifications of acceptance are sent to applicants mid-May.

Commitment

Five Saturday sessions and one overnight retreat in October:

- **Saturday, September 10, 2011**
- **Saturday-Sunday, October 1-2, 2011** (*mandatory*)
- **Saturday, October 29, 2011**
- **Saturday, December 10, 2011**
- **Saturday, January 7, 2012**
- **Saturday, February 12, 2012**
- **Wednesday, February 22, 2012** (*optional*)

In addition, students can expect to spend one to four hours on research between meetings.

How to Apply

Log on to the Atlanta Regional Commission website: www.atlantaregional.com/marc and follow the link to the online application form.

Fill in the required information and hit submit.

The deadline to apply is **Friday, April 1, 2011**.

“MARC is a really fun program that gives teenagers the ability to do something about our community.”

— Tamorie Mayweather, Martin Luther King Jr. High School

For More Information



Visit www.atlantaregional.com/marc or call 404.463.3192 (ARC)

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) is the official regional planning agency for the 10-county Atlanta region, which includes Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry and Rockdale counties, and their respective cities, including the City of Atlanta. ARC is the forum where the region’s leaders come together to discuss mutual concerns and opportunities and to decide and act on issues of region-wide impact. ARC is supported by local, state and federal funds.