

# Ozarks youth to speak at town hall in Branson Thursday

## Youth asked to speak about the future of the Ozarks

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BRANSON, Mo - What is and what should be the legacy of the Ozarks? That will be the subject of a town hall meeting from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center on Compton Drive in Branson tonight.

A group for preserving the culture of the Ozarks called Ozark Mountain Legacy, which is made up of several community leaders in Stone and Taney Counties is sponsoring it, but they're asking the youth of Stone and Taney Counties to be the one's speaking. "We as adults just want to listen to them; see how they view life in the Ozarks and the youth culture and what they see as where they'd like to see our community go in the future," says Jory Rolf, Director of Ozark Mountain Legacy. "We want the young people to see themselves in the future in our community."

"How they feel about Ozark Mountain Country and what things they want to see as part of our culture here," adds Dr. Sue Head, Co-Chair of Ozark Mountain Legacy.

It's something they've already asked the adults of the community. "What the 400 in our community identified as our Ozark Mountain Legacy which was to champion family, faith, friends, flag and future," says Rolf. "Those areas had been identified as important to the greater community; we want to be very intentional about transferring the **DNA** if you will of this area to the next generation, we can't just assume they're going to get it because they live here," says Head.

And how to pass on those values, just in case you're not born with it in your DNA. "It helps us know how we can transfer those values and be intentional about it, we risk losing it if we're not intentional about sharing it," says Head.

"Our Ultimate goal is to build a legacy youth institute where we will begin to develop future leaders of our area, give them opportunities to learn about our community and ways they can engage in the community and make a difference," says Rolf. "It's a great way for students from different schools in this area to come together and network with each other and get to know each other because they're the future leaders of our area so we want to start forming those relationships now," adds Head.

At tonight's town hall, Branson Assistant Police Chief Steve Daulton as well as Dr. **Tim Taylor**, Superintendent of Hollister Schools, will speak to the youth. Then they'll be participating in roundtable discussions with other area teens.

After tonight's town hall they will review what they find and hold another town hall to reveal them to the entire community on March 1st.

If you'd like to learn more about Ozark Mountain Legacy, click [here](#) to visit their website, or if you would like to read their mission statement, click [here](#).

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