The Putnam County Youth Forum is hosted by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County’s 4-H Youth Development Program and the Putnam County Youth Bureau, in partnership with all of the Putnam School Districts. The event is a day-long educational program organized by and designed for Putnam County High School Students. During the Forum, more than 150 Putnam high school students attend various workshops, facilitated by professionals, on issues such as healthy lifestyles & eating disorders, internet and technology, law and order in the community, how to survive college, teen addictions, and much, much more. Each of the participating schools provide transportation to and from the event.

The Putnam County Youth Bureau and Cornell Cooperative Extension/4-H Youth Development are looking for high school teens to contribute an “active youth voice” by helping to organize, plan, carry-out and evaluate the Youth Forum. The students that serve on the Planning Committee select the topics of the workshops as well as the facilitators. The committee is made up of approximately 15 to 20 students from area high schools and meets bi-weekly under the direction of Janeen Cunningham, Executive Director of the Putnam County Youth Bureau and Dena Altavilla, 4-H Youth & Family Development Program Director with Cornell Cooperative Extension.

If you would like to serve on the 2020 Putnam County Youth Forum Planning Committee, please contact Dena Altavilla, 4-H Youth & Family Program Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension by email at dla25@cornell.edu or call the 4-H Program at (845) 278-6738 for additional information.

The Putnam County Youth Forum is sponsored by the Putnam County Youth Bureau, NYS Office of Children and Family Services and Cornell Cooperative Extension’s 4-H Youth Development Program with support from Camp Herrlich.

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