



Aroostook Civic Academy

Are you an Aroostook County resident eager to make a difference in your community? Do you want to learn how to advocate for change through a free, interactive, 6-day course over 6-weeks? If so, the Aroostook Civic Academy is for you!

What's in it for you?

- **Learn Essential Skills:** Each session is designed to equip you with the knowledge and tools you need to become a confident advocate and a respected community leader.
- **Connect with Others:** Join fellow Aroostook County residents who are passionate about driving positive change in our community.
- **Create Lasting Impact:** Discover effective strategies to support both your personal goals and the well-being of those around you.

Course Schedule:

Join us for a comprehensive six-part program designed to empower you as an advocate. Sessions will be held simultaneously across multiple locations within the Agency Access Point network, running from **9:00 AM to 2:00 PM** on each date listed below:

- **Thursday, April 10, 2025:** Introduction to Advocacy
- **Thursday, April 17, 2025:** Engaging with City/Town Government
- **Thursday, April 24, 2025:** Engaging with County Government
- **Thursday, May 01, 2025:** Engaging with State Government
- **Thursday, May 08, 2025:** Engaging with Federal Government
- **Thursday, May 15, 2025:** Connecting with Advocacy Groups & Graduation

Take the First Step:

Mark your calendar and join us to build the skills and connections needed to make a lasting impact in your community! Apply now to join a community of engaged citizens and start making a tangible difference in Aroostook County. Your journey toward community empowerment begins here!

Important Application Details:

- **Applications:** Pick one up at our office or visit our website www.arostookaging.org to view, complete, and sign a copy for us.
- **Deadline:** All applications must be received by **Friday, February 28th at 4:30 PM**. Late or incomplete applications may not be considered.
- **Notification:** Selected applicants will be informed by **Friday, March 21st**.

How to Submit Your Application:

1. **In Person or by Mail:** Drop off or send your completed application to: Aroostook Agency on Aging, Attn: Judi Smith, Executive Assistant, PO Box 1288, 260 Main Street, Suite B, Presque Isle, ME 04769
2. **By Email:** Scan your completed application and email it to: judi.smith@aroostookaging.org

Please ensure that your application is complete and signed to avoid any delays in processing. We look forward to reviewing your submission!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Aroostook Civic Academy? The Aroostook Civic Academy is an intensive six-day course designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to understand public policy and become effective advocates for their communities.

Who can apply to this program? Aroostook County residents aged 18 and older who are passionate about advocacy **and** who can attend all six sessions are encouraged to apply. Due to limited space, applications will be reviewed to create a diverse cohort. While priority is given to applicants aged 60 and over, up to 50% of the participants may be under 60.

What can I look forward to gaining from this experience? Participants will gain valuable insights by learning from experts in the field, interacting with elected and appointed officials, mastering strategies to navigate government institutions, and building lasting connections with peers.

Do I have to attend all days of the course to participate? Yes, full participation is expected. Each session introduces new topics that build upon one another. In-person attendance is required to fully benefit from the program.

What is the time commitment for this program? The program consists of six sessions held on Thursdays this Spring from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Participants are encouraged to prepare in advance and may have follow-up activities after each session. The total time commitment may vary based on your level of engagement and interest.

Where is this program located? This year, sessions will be held in Presque Isle and at several Agency Access Points across northern Maine, providing convenient options based on your location.

Will lunch/refreshments be provided? Yes, refreshments and lunch will be provided at each session location.

Have additional questions? Please contact Judi Smith at the Aroostook Agency on Aging by calling 207-764-3396 or 800-439-1789 or email her at judi.smith@aroostookaging.org.