

As the school year winds down, there are a lot of things students need to do. Getting ready for prom, spending time with the departing seniors, and studying for finals are just some of the items on their to-do list. For the members of Hoover high school's Leadership Interact club, there's one more item they have to add: senior citizen prom.

Senior citizen prom is an annual event held by the students in Leadership Interact club, an organization that promotes leadership by having their members volunteer in the community as well as help set up and organize the prom. It is attended by the senior citizens in the community for a night of fun, dancing, and games. The prom is a Hoover tradition and many seniors come back every year. This year's prom was held on April 21st at Hoover high school.

An event like this doesn't come without some extensive planning. The club started preparing for this year's prom back in January. The students are responsible for picking the theme, making the decorations, and setting up the event. This year's theme was Candy Land.

At the event the students are in charge of setting up the decorations beforehand and setting the tables for dinner. They also serve dinner and dessert to all of the guests and make sure that they are having a good time. After the dinner, they run the different activities available. The guests have the option to play bingo, participate in blackjack, take photos in a photo booth, and dance to a live band. There are also musical performances by Hoover students.

Elyssa Enrique, a Hoover student and member of the club, explains what makes the prom so successful.

"I think the key to [the] success of Senior Citizen's Prom is student involvement," Enrique said. "We hold weekly meetings to get the decorations ready for the prom, and members are always super willing to help out. Also throughout the prom the students dance, play bingo, and interact with the Seniors in attendance which promotes reoccurring attendance every year."

The interaction is part of what makes the senior citizen prom a great experience for both the students and the attendees and what makes both look forward to this every year.

The prom is just one of the volunteer activities put on by Leadership-interact club. Some other projects they do include collecting school supplies for teachers and helping organizations in the community. Enrique believes that the prom is one of the most popular volunteer opportunities.

"I think out of all of the service projects we do, Senior Citizen Prom is the most loved by its members. Everyone loves working together to make the decorations and setting up the prom. Since it's such a enjoyable night, the members share their experiences with other students which prompts more members in the following year."

A unique aspect of the prom is the fact that all of the decorations are hand made by the students to fit the theme. Since this year's theme was Candy Land, all of the decorations were centered around everyone's favorite treats. Cotton balls and glitter were used to recreate bags of popcorn and cupcakes. Pool noodles, duct tape, and white sticks were used for lollipops. And red cups, ribbons, and plastic balls were used to look like gumball machine. These decorations and the others created added to the fun atmosphere of the prom.

This annual event is a great opportunity for everyone involved as Enrique explains.

"I think it is super beneficial for both the school and community," Enrique said. "Not only does it get students involved in a project to help the community members, but it also gives the

community members a great night of fun. It's a great way to get students involved with the older members of the community."