

# Creating an Afterschool Youth Leadership Program

**Dayna Krannawitter**

CLC Site Coordinator

Arnold Elementary, Lincoln NE

**Michelle Krehbiel**

4-H State Youth Development Specialist

University of Nebraska-Extension

# Agenda

I. Introductions

II. Youth Leadership Works!

III. Case Study-Youth Afterschool Ambassadors

IV. Practical Application

V. Questions

# Three Big Features of Effective Youth Serving Programs

- Positive and sustained relationships between youth and adults
- Activities that build important life skills
- Opportunities for youth to use these life skills as both participants and leaders in valued community activities

Lerner, R.M. (2004). *Liberty: Thriving and Civic Engagement in America's Youth*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

# Youth- Adult Partnerships

- When adults and youth come together in a positive environment to take advantage of the strengths that each group brings to the table as they strive toward an end result that would not have been possible without the collaboration from the two unique groups.
- Youth and adults working together in a positive, mutually respectful environment with the recognition that each group contributes unique strengths to the relationship.

Take from: *Engaging Youth, Serving Community* (2006)

# Ladder of Youth Participation

Youth-initiated, shared decisions with adults

Youth-initiated and directed

Adult-initiated, shared decisions with youth

Consulted and informed

Assigned but informed

Tokenism

Decoration

Manipulation



Degrees of Participation

Non-Participation

# Why do Youth-Adult Partnerships?

## Youth Benefits

- Provides leadership experience
- Gives youth a voice
- Gain skills in working with others
- Promotes responsibility

## Adult Benefits

- Experience the power of youth
- Learn needs of youth
- Develop relationships with youth
- Learn how to involve youth as resources

# Case Study-Youth Afterschool Ambassadors

*Youth  
Afterschool  
Ambassadors*

*Lincoln CLC's  
Lincoln, NE*



# Case Study-Youth Afterschool Ambassadors

## Two approaches:

### #1 Lead Afterschool Ambassadors



### #2 Youth Afterschool Ambassadors Club

# Case Study-Youth Afterschool Ambassadors

## Lead Afterschool Ambassadors

- One lead from each CLC site selected at site level
- Meet one Saturday a month
- Leadership, communication, and advocacy activities
- Planning for Lights On Afterschool



# Case Study-Youth Afterschool Ambassadors

## Youth Afterschool Ambassadors Club

- Group of 10-12 site ambassadors
- Meet weekly
- Leadership, communication, and advocacy activities
- Site-based leadership and events
- Lead ambassador is part of this group



# Case Study-Youth Afterschool Ambassadors

## Advocacy Activities for Youth Afterschool Ambassadors

- Testimony to:
  - Board of Education
  - City Council
  - Legislative Hearings
  - CLC Leadership Council
  - Governor' s Proclamation Signings
- Media interviews and letters to the editor
- Hosting afterschool events
  - Ex. CLC Art Show, Site showcases, Site visits
- YAA afterschool clubs
- Leading site ambassador teams

# Practical Application

At your table:

1. Share your best strategy for meaningful youth leadership at your site.
2. What is the spark that gets your youth involved?

## Creating an Afterschool Youth Leadership Program

What one action will you do to create an afterschool youth leadership program?

# Creating an Afterschool Leadership Program

## Contact Information

**Dayna Krannawitter**

Lincoln Housing Authority

Arnold Community

Learning Center

402-436-1120 ext. 5

[dkranna@lps.org](mailto:dkranna@lps.org)

**Michelle Krehbiel**

University of Nebraska-  
Lincoln

4-H Youth Development

402-472-9020

[mkrehbiel2@unl.edu](mailto:mkrehbiel2@unl.edu)