Creating an Afterschool Youth Leadership Program

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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

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

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?
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What one action will you do to create an afterschool youth leadership program?
Creating an Afterschool Leadership Program

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