

Why Youth Leadership?

When people are asked to picture a leader, more often than not, they picture adults. It is true that adult leaders are influencing those around them and changing the world, however, recently there has been a bigger push for youth leadership and there are many reasons why.



Youth are the next generation of leaders.

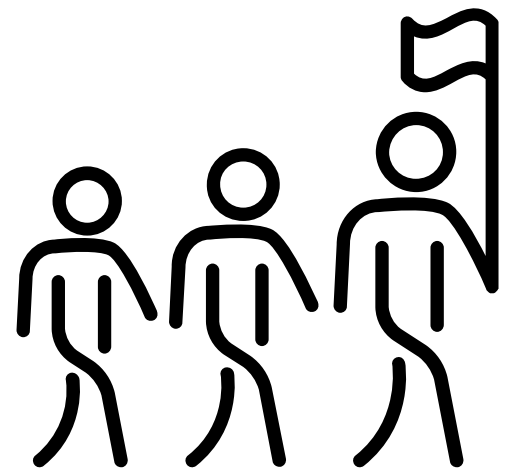
The youth today will be the leaders of tomorrow. Helping youth develop leadership skills and take on leadership positions now will give them the skills and confidence to continue leading throughout their life. Great youth leaders grow up into great adult leaders.

Youth have the ability to learn.

Learning is more effective while you are young. Youth allows the learner to better retain and integrate basic skills into their lives. It is important to train youth to become leaders because they have the best chance to learn. They are filled with unlimited potential, creativity, and a less biased perspective that allows them to develop the skills to become the leaders the world so desperately needs.

Youth can make a difference now.

Youth are impacting the world around them right now. While it is important to help youth prepare to be leaders tomorrow, young leaders can make just as much, if not more, impact today. Youth with access to social media and other platforms are becoming a larger voice in local and world discussions (See [Malala Yousafzai, Melati and Isabel Wijzen, 4-H youth voices](#)). Through this they are learning they can make a difference now.

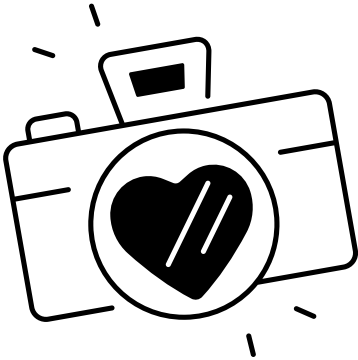


Extension

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Tips for successful youth Leadership



Involve their interests.

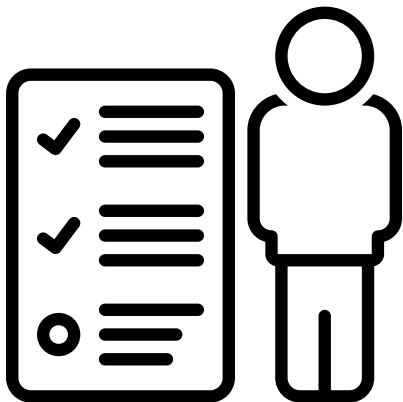
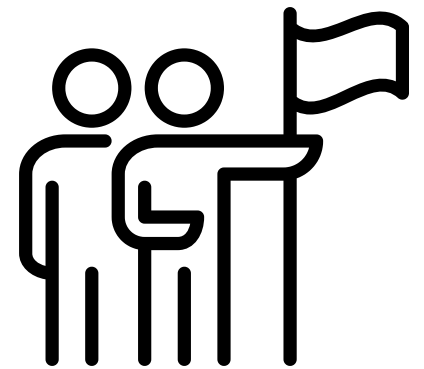
Let youth implement and lead projects they are passionate about! Most youth are inherently driven and when you let them get involved in what matters most to them, then they put forth their whole effort.

Focus on connection.

Leadership teams need meaningful opportunities for connection and fun! Youth thrive on connection and are more motivated to lead and follow through when they have that connection and support from those around them.

Let them lead each other.

Youth need to lead youth. When a young person sees the leadership and skill of another young person it can inspire them into leadership, whereas an adult may not have that same impact.



Hold them accountable.

Give youth responsibility and things to be accountable for. It is extra difficult for youth to step in and lead if adults do everything for them. Treat youth as any other adult volunteer. Give them all the support and help that they need but let them fulfill responsibilities on their own.

