

Cultivating **Youth Voice**

Youth voice includes the ideas, opinions, perspectives, initiatives and actions of young people. In an adult-driven society, actions must be taken to incorporate more youth perspectives into our communities.

Empowering **Youth Voice**

There are a variety of ways to empower youth voice, both for adults and youth in 4-H and Youth Councils. When incorporating youth voice it is important to be creative and to adjust as you learn, but here are some ideas to get you started.

Ideas for Building **Youth Voice**

- Speaking up! If you have something to say don't let it go unheard.
- Committing time and energy to service and leadership
- Asking questions to seek out guidance and support
- Encouraging and involving other young people
- Taking responsibility seriously

Adults can help build **Youth Voice by**

- Involving young people in the decision making process right from the beginning
- Being willing to learn from young people, and really listen to their opinions and perspective
- Including as many young people as possible
- Providing youth with information, training and support in order to succeed
- Scheduling meetings at times when youth can participate (after school, not too late at night)

