Creating A Youth Council and Inspiring Them To Lead

Presented by:
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Throughout this session, we will:

- Identify how youth can help your organization in the community.
- Explain how to effectively recruit youth for a youth council.
- Apply youth engagement & volunteerism into your mission statement.
Right now, more than ever, young people are standing up for what they believe in and taking action. They want to have a voice in their community, and they want their voice to be heard.

Your organization has the opportunity to act as piller of support for youth, empowering and enabling them to drive more significant, positive change and impact into their community.
Benefits for Your Organization

YOUTH VOICE IS POWERFUL AND BRINGS NEW ENERGY, FRESH PROSPECTIVE, AND INNOVATION TO THE TABLE.

YOUR COMPANY HAS THE ABILITY TO REACH A WIDER AUDIENCE WITH GREATER REPRESENTATION AND MORE AUTHENTIC IMPACT.

MORE PRESENCE AND CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY YOUTH CAN RESULT IN GREATER YOUTH INVOLVEMENT/SUPPORT.
## Benefits for Youth

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<th>Benefits</th>
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<td><strong>Youth Council = Home Base:</strong> a safe, positive, and supportive environment for youth to learn and grow, not only as leaders and team players, but as individuals.</td>
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<td><strong>Positive networks and relationships are developed.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Increased confidence and drive.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Access to new information and resources.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Cultivation of important life skills:</strong> teamwork, conflict resolution, time management, public speaking, etc.</td>
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The Process of Creating a Youth Council

- Completing a needs assessment of your organization
- Identifying types of support a youth council needs
- Recruitment & connecting the Council to Community
- Creating a mission statement
- Scheduling & management
- Achieving your goals and ensuring success
- Reflecting, evaluating, and celebrating
Needs Assessment: Forming a Youth Council that Reflects Your Organization

Determine where it would be most beneficial to involve youth.

How do you plan to incorporate youth into your organization?
Identifying Types of Council Support

INTERNAL STAFF SUPPORT: LEADERSHIP TEAM, PROGRAM STAFF, STAKEHOLDERS

OUTSIDE SUPPORT: CONNECT WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND SCHOOLS THAT HAVE YOUTH COUNCILS

FINANCIAL SUPPORT: FUNDRAISING, GRANTS, ETC.
Recruiting Youth for Your Council

• Market your youth council: online and offline - think about areas that youth frequent.
• Recommendation Method: Reach out to school administrators, counselors, and teachers.
• Reach out to your organization’s current network.
Optimizing Youth + Adult Partnerships

- Treat youth as valuable decision makers.
- Welcome contributions from both youth and adults.
- Establish high expectations and goals together.
- Identify gaps between youth ability and youth expectations.
How You Can Best Support Youth

Listen
Listen to their ideas and help create an action plan to make their idea a reality.

Collaborate
Collaborate; get involved and support their projects.

Teach
Teach youth how to overcome obstacles and barriers that they may face.

Lead
Be a positive role model and show them how to create positive change.
Connecting a Youth Council to the Community

- Have youth represent or speak on behalf of your organization.
- Youth-led initiatives that reflect your organization’s mission, with a “for youth, by youth” attitude.
- Advocacy for your organization’s mission, via youth led projects, events, or articles/press releases written by youth on relevant topics.
Operational Logistics

- Naming Your Council
- Handbooks
- Background and History
- Membership Requirements
- Application in Terms of Tenure (length of term)
- Roles + Responsibilities
Scheduling, Meetings, and Trainings

Youth Council Orientation: A successful orientation is essential if you want your council to be successful.

Quarterly meetings in person, conference calls 2-4 times/month.

Leadership and Professional Development trainings for both youth and adults – use your network to bring this to life!
Achieving Your Goals: Short and Long-Term

How can you ensure that your youth council is going to be successful?

Consistent Communication

Review and Monitor Youth Involvement

Follow up
Next Steps...

REFLECT

EVALUATE

CELEBRATE