



“Engaging Teens and Older Youth”

Pre Activity Options: This activity is designed to help the youth and adult participants start to identify and think about roles Teen and Older Youth can engage in and the elements needed to support teens and older youth in these roles. There are two options depending on the size of your group.

Supplies:

- Sticky notes in assorted colors
- Flip chart paper
- Markers
- Masking Tape
- Note cards

Facilitator Instructions:

Place three flip chart papers on the wall. Title them the following:

- **Roles for teens and older youth**
- **What teens/older youth need from adults?**
- **What adults need from teens/ older youth?**

5 - 7 min.

1. Welcome everyone

- Ask them to introduce themselves – Name, club or group and what they like best about working with Teens and Older Youth
- Optional – Record responses on a flip chart – You may want to refer to this later in the evening.

Option 1:

10 min.

2. Setting the Stage:

- Ask participants to answer each of the following questions. They are to write their responses on different colored sticky notes.
 - ✓ For example:
 - ✓ Yellow sticky notes with one idea per sticky note
- Here are the questions to ask: Write these questions on a flip chart paper. Ask participants to write 2 or 3 answers for each on separate sticky notes. Be specific about what questions have which color.

Q1. What roles have you or would you like to engage teens and older youth?
(yellow sticky notes)

- Participants can be encouraged to write 2 or 3 ideas down.

A1. Potential Answers

- Being a club project leader
- Organizing community service projects
- Helping provide orientation for new families and members
- Serving as a youth representative on a county board
- Chairing a countywide program
- Teaching at a county workshop
- Serving as mentors to the club officer team

Q2. What do teens and older youth need from adults to be successful in taking on leadership roles? (orange sticky notes)

A2. Potential Answers

- Support
- Encouragement
- Common understanding
- Clear expectations
- Freedom to be creative
- Guidance
- Open Communication
- Trust
- Respect
- Resources/Tools
- Open relationship
- Inclusive and safe environment

Q3. What do adults need from teens and older youth as they work together to support youth in leadership roles? (green sticky notes)

A3. Potential Answers

- Respect
- Common understanding
- Trust
- Clear expectations
- Open Communication
- Open relationship
- Resources/Tools

10 min. Processing: Have the participants share their responses to each question round robin style and then ask them to place them on the appropriate flip chart.

- What are some common themes – bring those out – feel free to add in the possible responses of other key points you want to highlight locally.
- Repeat for Questions 2 and Question 3.
- Ask the participants what are common words or themes identified for what Teens or Older Youth need to be successful and what adults need from Older Teens and Youth.
- Potential Answers: Trust, Open Communication, Respect, Understanding, Clear Expectations, Open Relationship, Tools/Resources

3 min. Closing Comments:

These questions are to set the stage as we learn together tonight and share ideas around “Engaging Teens and Older Youth”. You have some excellent ideas of what is working. We will expand on that through additional activities and dialogue from throughout not only the north central region; but other states as well.

OPTION 2: For a small group –

10 min. Pair and Share Activity

1. Think of a time you encouraged a teen or older youth to take on a leadership role that he/she did may not have done without your encouragement?

- What was the role?
- What did you do to help the teen or older youth be successful?
- What would or could you have done differently?

Pair up with a partner and share your experience.

Identify what elements were important as you helped this young person be successful in taking on this leadership roles. Record on flip chart to refer to later.

10 min. 2. Ask pairs to share with larger group what some of the common elements were identified to help Teens and Older Youth be successful.

3 min. Closing Comments: These questions are to set the stage as we learn together tonight and share ideas around “Engaging Teens and Older Youth”. You have some excellent ideas of what is working and who you have already engaged teens. We will expand on that through additional activities and dialogue from throughout not only the north central region; but other states as well.