Four Essential Elements of Positive Youth Development and Leadership Roles

Directions: After reading the descriptions of the Essential Elements on the left, take a few minutes to think about what do the essential elements look like in youth leadership roles. Write a few notes about your conclusions on the right.

Belonging

A Positive Relationship with a Caring Adult
> A caring adults acts as an advisor, guide and mentor. The adult helps set boundaries and expectations for young people.

An Inclusive Environment
> An inclusive environment is one that creates a sense of belonging, encourages and supports its members with positive and specific feedback.

A Safe Environment
> Youth should not fear physical or emotional harm while participating in a 4-H experience whether from the learning environment itself, adults, other participants or spectators.

Mastery

Opportunity for Mastery
> Mastery is the building of knowledge, skills, and attitudes and then demonstrating the competent use of this knowledge and skills in the manner of a proficient practitioner. The development of mastery is a process over time.

Engagement in Learning
> An engaged youth is one who is mindful of the subject area, building relationships and connections in order to develop understanding. The engaged learner has a higher degree of self-motivation and an inexhaustible capacity to create.

Independence

Opportunity to See Oneself as an Active Participant in the Future
> The ability to see oneself in the future is to have hope and optimism to shape life choices to facilitate the transition into participating in the future.

Opportunity for Self-Determination
> Youth must exercise a sense of influence over their lives, exercising their potential to become self-directing, autonomous adults.

Generosity

Opportunity to Value and Practice Service to Others
> Finding one's self begins with losing yourself in the service of others. Service is a way for members to gain exposure to the larger community, indeed the world itself.

Belonging and Leadership Roles

What does belonging look like in youth leadership roles?

Mastery and Leadership Roles

What does mastery look like in youth leadership roles?

Independence and Leadership Roles

What does independence look like in youth leadership roles?

Generosity and Leadership Roles

What does generosity look like in youth leadership roles?