



# Older Youth and Teen Leaders – What's Your Opinion?

## **Purpose:**

Checking in for your opinion on Roles for Older Youth and Teen Leaders

Here is an opportunity to ask the youth and adult leaders who are attending their opinion and have a conversation around each other's ideas. It is an opportunity to clarify and expand our understanding of opportunities that older youth can and will engage in if given the opportunity.

## **Supplies Needed:**

- **Preprinted Signs: Agree and Disagree**
- **Masking Tape**
- **List of questions to read**

## **Learning Experience:**

- Tape the signs to each side of the wall.
- Read a statement.
- After the statement ask the youth and adult who are attending to find a place on the continuum where they agree or disagree.
- After everyone has moved to their place on the continuum – ask for several volunteers to share why they chose the place they did.
- After the comments; take time to process and clarify how to expand roles for Older Youth and Teen Leaders

## **Questions:**

1. Older Youth and Teen Leaders will volunteer on their own for new leadership roles?
2. Older Youth and Teen Leaders have skills, experiences and new ideas that can benefit the club and community they live in?
3. Older Youth and Teen Leaders can be effective in mentoring new members and families?
4. Older Youth and Teen Leaders can serve in the role of a project leader?
5. Older Youth and Teen Leaders can identify a need in their communities and provide leadership for developing a plan to address a local need.
6. Older Youth and Teen Leaders can serve as an advisor to a club officer team?
7. Older Youth and Teen Leaders can serve as a county committee chair?
8. Older Youth and Teen Leaders can speak to a county board on the impact of 4-H?
9. Older Youth and Teen Leaders can chair the club fundraiser?

**Brainstorm:**

Q. What elements are essential to a building a successful youth adult partnership and support older youth/teen leaders?

A. Possible Answers

- Equal Voice
- Equal Participation
- Equal Roles
- Common Goal
- Inclusive Environment
- Open Communication
- Building Relationships
- Mutual Respect
- Deliberate Training and Support

**Processing and Closing Comments:**

What can you do as an adult or older youth to foster the growth of youth as leaders?

- Ask youth to serve in these roles.
- Sit down together as a youth adult leader team and talk about the leadership role and the expectations that you each have.
- Work to foster strong youth adult partnerships where you can enhance young people's skills to be contributing members in their community.
- Celebrate the successes and accomplishments.

Providing opportunities for youth to develop their leadership skills is foundational to 4-H Youth Development programming. As adult leaders, it is important to identify opportunities for youth to develop and enhance their leadership skills. The club experience is one of the first opportunities for youth to serve as leaders. As older youth and teen leaders you also can help create other opportunities for older youth and teen leaders.



# Agree





# Disagree

