

Adult Workshop

This training curriculum is designed primarily for adults who have responsibility for designing, implementing and evaluating youth programs. This workshop is designed to be presented as a workshop of approximately 2-2½ hours. The overall purpose is to increase adults' ability to work in partnership with young people to develop, implement, and evaluate youth programs, events, and activities. By doing so, we meet the developmental needs of young people while providing them with leadership roles to improve the conditions in which they live.

Goal: To help adults understand the need for young people to be involved in making decisions about the programs that affect them and to understand that young people have significant contributions to make to the current programs as well as future endeavors.

Objectives: Participants will assess the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors necessary for working in partnership with young people, and develop action steps for their own development.

Participants will understand how young people are treated and why this understanding is significant to the work they do.

Participants will be able to articulate the ways young people bring both benefits and challenges in youth-adult partnerships.

Participants will identify three viewpoints from which adults tend to view the potential contributions young people make to society: youth as objects, recipients, or partners.

Participants will practice ways to treat young people as partners.

Participants will be able to articulate ways they intend to work with young people as partners.

BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES

Purpose: To have participants consider the challenges and the benefits of working in partnership with young people.

Time: 30 minutes

Materials: Half sheets of standard size paper (8.5" x 11") for people to write on - about 3 sheets for each participant, markers, paper or some material on wall to put all ½ sheets, spray adhesive or masking tape rolled to put on the back of the ½ sheets.

Procedure:

Note: This approach with the use of ½ sheets and a ‘sticky’ wall is taken from the ICA workshop methods.

“We talked a little in the introduction about the benefits of working with young people, and you shared what made you the proudest about your work with youth. Let’s focus for a minute on what we think young people bring to the table that adds to the experience. You will be working in small groups to come up with a list and we will compile all your responses to see what some of those benefits might be.”

Instruct people to take a moment or two to write down every benefit that they can think of that a young person brings to the table in an equal partnership. Give people time to think through a number of ideas, and then have them join a group of about four additional people to discuss their entire list. Have each group choose five to seven benefits that they will put on the half sheets.

- ⇒ Write big
- ⇒ One idea per sheet
- ⇒ 5-7 words per sheet

Leader’s Notes

Help get people into small groups quickly if they are having trouble.

As you go through each element (write big, one idea per sheet, 5-7 words per sheet), have these on ½ sheets of paper and post each one as you read the item.

Once they have their five to seven benefits, have each group choose two that they think are the most important. Read through all of the responses and then ask people to put up two that no one else has put up. Ask for any others that should go up. Go through all out loud and ask the participants....

- What was it like to come up with benefits that young people bring to the table?
- Are there items up here that are particularly unique to being young?
- How can we use this information as we go forward?
- Now ask the participants to do a similar process with the challenges of working with young people.

Discussion Questions:

1. How easy was it to come up with benefits? Challenges?
2. What is there about the benefits that can help overcome the challenges?
3. Where else might you look for ideas on how to overcome the challenges?
4. What is one learning from this activity?
5. How might we use this information?

One way we will be using the challenges in the Youth-Adult Workshop is developing strategies to overcome the challenges when we meet in our youth-adult teams.

Leader's Notes

You will record this information after the training and give to participants.

One trainer has posted on one side of the blackboard the brainstorming of benefits and challenges from other workshops and then flips it over to show a comparison between other groups and the brainstorming done by this group.

You will be saving all the responses for the workshop when youth and adults are together.