

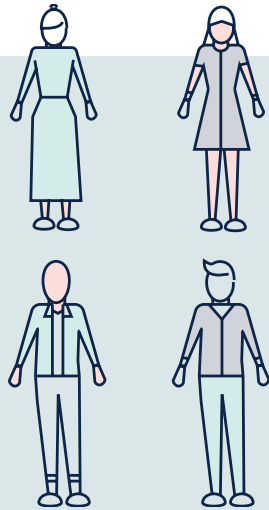
Youth partnership tips

Hints for community organisations forming partnerships with local students through Partner Up.

Why be partners?

Young people ...

- have fresh perspectives and energy
- are great collaborators
- share and spread messages via social media
- are good at making the dollar stretch
- keep you up-to-date with digital and cultural changes
- are passionate about critical issues, for example the environment
- attract positive attention from the media
- know best what other young people think and want
- are seeking your partnership on project to benefit the local community, as part of their Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) studies. Please help them where you can!

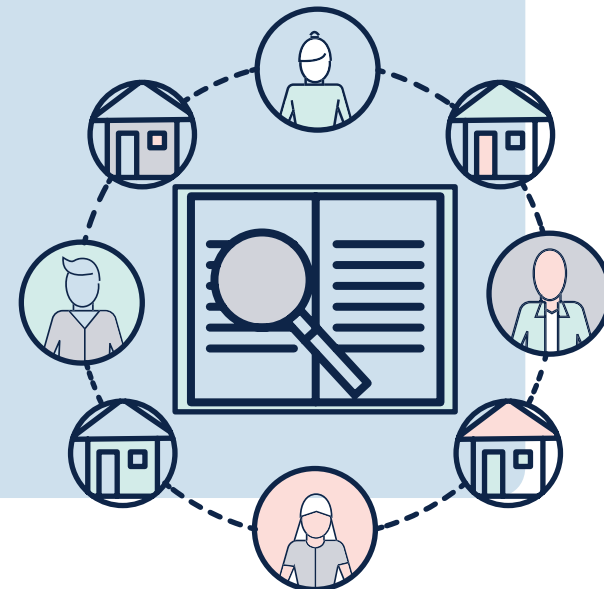


How to make it work?

- Establish high expectations for everyone involved, without expecting more from young people than from experienced adults.
- Demystify adult structures, processes and actions that are second nature to you.
- Explain ideas and competing responsibilities, so that being busy or hurried is not misinterpreted as disinterest.
- Some young people may need extra guidance and practice to fully understand responsibilities before being placed in decision-making or leadership roles. Doing this will ensure they are not inadvertently set up for avoidable frustration, confusion, possible failure and humiliation.

What can you offer to young people?

- The opportunity to contribute positively to your organisation and their local community.
- Increased confidence and sense of agency.
- Positive memories and increased trust of local organisations and communities.
- Growth in workplace and communication skills.



Conversations

- Ask questions about what young people think.
- Welcome their ideas.
- Validate their thinking. A simple but powerful validation technique is to affirm a comment or suggestion by rephrasing and repeating it back to the individual.
- Let adolescents finish speaking about their ideas, as some can become discouraged and stop talking when interrupted by an adult.
- Spend time and effort developing a good relationship initially, as contribution and effort from the young partners is likely to follow as a result.



Want more?

Visit yerp.yacvic.org.au for tips on involving young people!
See references.

References

A number of the hints on this document are from the following sources.

University of Illinois Extension, Tips for working with youth as partners, PDF, United States Department of Agriculture, viewed 16 May 2016, <<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/bdo/downloads/2085.pdf>>.

Bank of Ideas 2014, Tips for Building Effective Youth-Adult Partnerships, PDF, Bank of Ideas, viewed 16 May 2016, <<http://bankofideas.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Tips-for-Building-Effective-Youth-Adult-Partnerships.pdf>>.

Jackson, Kayla 2002, 'Tips for Partnering with Youth', Transitions: Community Partnerships, vol. 14, no. 3, viewed 16 May 2016, <<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/publications-a-z/680-tips-for-partnering-with-youth>>.

Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc. (YACVic) 2013, YACVic Melbourne, Victoria, viewed 30 May 2016, <<http://yerp.yacvic.org.au/>>.

Meetings

- Schedule meetings at times and places youth can attend (consider public transport).
- Keep young people informed about plans and meeting times.
- Encourage young people to ask for clarification or explanations of workplace/industry terms.
- Explain the reasons for proposed actions, because this is all new for many young people.

