



TIPS FOR ENGAGING YOUTH

BE PRESENT

Pay close attention to the young person and everything they have to say. Don't multitask while talking with youth.



OFFER MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES

Activities should be youth-friendly and suited to their specific interests and needs. Meet youth at their current level of knowledge and development. Let the youth experience and discover their passions.

OFFER LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Provide youth the opportunity to play active, independent roles. Involve them in ALL aspects of programming and support their opinions and ideas.

MOTIVATE

Encourage positivity. Challenge youth to exceed their expectations.



ASK FOR AND RESPECT YOUTHS' OPINIONS

The youth perspective is crucial. Past experiences, family life, and other factors and/or barriers have influenced their thinking. Look at their ages and possible struggles. Be open to learning from youth.



USE A YOUTH-CENTERED APPROACH (AUTHENTIC AND EMPATHETIC)

Be genuine, sincere, and authentic in your relationship with youth. Be open to a young person's perspective, thoughts, opinions, and feelings to establish a positive, constructive relationship.

ENCOURAGE REFLECTION

Confiding to an adult might be difficult for many youths. When a youth offers personal information, talks about something important to them, highlights a risk or struggle they're facing, respects their feelings, and give them time to reflect.

PROVIDE SUPPORT

Advocate for youth. Identify resources and learning experiences to support growth.



CELEBRATE

Celebrate diverse abilities and accomplishments, but also assist youth in overcoming setbacks. Don't forget to have fun!



RECOGNIZE ASSUMPTIONS

Recognize and appreciate youth for who they are and what they bring to the table without passing judgment. Evaluate your assumptions of young people.