

## 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.