

Why Involve Youth?

Involving youth in *authentic* ways can take more time, energy and creativity than doing a project alone, but the rewards are big. It is essential to have a strong understanding of the value of involving youth to keep you motivated when barriers arise. Below are a list of just some of the good reasons to partner with youth as you strive to make change.



Young people have a right to be consulted about decisions that will effect their lives, and will have unique insights into the strengths & weaknesses of a project aimed at youth.



Young people are fun to be with and can teach you a lot.



A youth perspective is different than an adult one and in the spirit of “two heads are better than one,” multiple perspectives are helpful when trying to create change or solve a problem.



Involving youth in authentic ways offers them opportunities to build skills and have leadership experiences that can influence their future choices and possibilities for work and school.



Involving youth lets them know that you are “walking your talk” about their importance to you and your initiative.



Youth have energy and creativity that when tapped can transform a project, community, school or any environment.



Youth make great peer & community educators and can creatively get a message across—to younger students, peers, parents, and community leaders.



Involving young people builds sustainability—young people who lead today build the skills and interest to lead tomorrow.