

## More Opportunities for Youth to be Meaningfully Engaged

Youth Activism	Youth in Governance and Organizational decision making	Youth as Community Change Agents
<p>Youth are actively involved in projects activities, programs and services. Projects are typically done <i>by youth with adult support</i>. (<u>Not</u> adult-led efforts directed to youth)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth provide leadership, direction, coordination, and follow-through.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth decide the rules, plan the activities, conduct the projects, evaluate progress.</li> </ul> <p><b>Examples</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Peer helpers</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Peer outreach workers</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Peer educators, cross-age teachers</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tutors</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Cross-age mentors</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth judges, attorneys (youth courts)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth artists and actors</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth organizers of specific events/ projects <u>for other students</u></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth in service to help others</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth news reporters</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth created media videos, PSAs, posters, blogs etc.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth researchers</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth run businesses</li> </ul>	<p>Youth <i>with adults</i>, are involved in a range of decision-making roles within an organization. Youth usually become interested in this role <u>after</u> volunteering for the organization; over time, they become connected to its mission and people. Youth in <i>Governance</i> is different from <i>activism</i> in that, youth are involved in decisions that impact the entire organization or its programs and services, <u>not</u> a single project or activity. Decision-making roles range from providing input, consultation and advocacy, to, having voting responsibilities and privileges.</p> <p><b>Examples</b></p> <p><b>Youth Voice:</b> Youth feedback is solicited about the organization, its programs, services or projects (focus groups, youth conducted surveys etc.)</p> <p><b>Youth Consultants/Advisors:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth are “consultants” and provide input, plan and evaluate programs, provide recommendations to the organization.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth advisory group, caucus, or commission to boards, administrations, and legislative bodies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Youth in Governance ~ Shared Leadership and Decision-making</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth philanthropy (youth make funding decisions on youth conceived, planned and led-projects)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Youth have</i> voting responsibilities and privileges <i>in</i> hiring, funding, strategic planning, organizational policies, grant writing.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Participation on major organizational committees with voting responsibilities and privileges.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth on Boards of Directors, Municipal Commissions, Tribal Councils with voting responsibilities and privileges.</li> </ul>	<p>Young people work with <i>supportive adults</i> to improve the conditions in the community, environment, region or state. Success is mostly achieved through <u>group</u> efforts, <i>not individual</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth identify issues important to them and their community.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth research and analyze the causes and solutions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth learn community organizing and advocacy strategies</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth develop and carry out action plans to effect change in their community</li> </ul> <p><b>Examples</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth Forums- youth identify the issues and problems through “speak-outs”, polls, focus groups, youth conducted surveys (i.e. what are the problems facing your generation, what are the solutions?)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> “Youth-Adult Partnerships” organized to improve community conditions.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth group performs service activities to improve the community.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth advocate for social justice issues: (e.g. prevent drinking and driving, clean air /tobacco-free policies in public places, pesticide right to know campaigns).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth participate in “public affairs” though forums; contacting public officials, talk shows or media; organizing community awareness events.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth participate in elections, campaigns, legislation, or host candidate debates.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Youth vote in elections or are involved in voter registration and advocacy.</li> </ul>
<p>Adapted by Becky Judd, Alaska Division of Behavioral Health from: Act for Youth (2004) <i>Strengthening Youth Involvement</i>. LISTEN (2003) <i>An Emerging Model for Working with Youth</i>. Coalition of Community Foundations for Youth. <i>Youth Civic Engagement</i>; Youth Forum For Youth Investment (2001) <i>Youth Action: Youth Contributing to Communities Supporting Youth</i>. 3.06</p>		