



The
Resource
Basket

Hosting Your First Youth Group/Council Meeting!

- Start with a fun **activity**! Try Icebreaker activities, or plan something of interest to attract the youth. These games can start *Building Community* among members.
- Consider *Youth Needs* based on location and time of day. Would **snacks** be helpful or enticing? Physical, emotional and psychological needs must be met for better engagement!
- Establish **expectations** and **agreements** to consistently follow. Have the youth lead the creation and discussion of their expectations, and always strive for a positive and respectful climate.
- (Re) introduce the group's **purpose**. Offer opportunities for the youth to create ownership through a name, Mission Statement, even a logo!
- **Brainstorm** their wildest dreams for the community, opportunities for themselves, regularly scheduled activities, bigger events, traditional skills, topics of importance....have someone record & save these ideas.
- Remember **content** and **relationships**---of course everyone wants to have fun, also consider the *depth* of adult-youth and peer-to-peer interactions. How are you developing trust? Can teens talk freely & honestly about what's on their minds/in their hearts? Select education and discussion topics to explore and learn for action and plan-making.
- Close with a **reflection** about the meeting or activity, as well as what the youth think is needed for the group's future (some youth may prefer writing/drawing, some may want to talk).
- Decide on a regular meeting **schedule**.
- Have the youth create the next **agenda** that can include more fun, plan-making, talk, reflection.