

Youth engagement is the sentiment
young people feel towards a particular
person, activity, place or outcome.

(Pittman, K.)

“Nothing for us without us”

(Strangler, G.J & Shirk, M., 2004)

“involving children in the creation of
their own destinies...”

MAKING IT MATTER



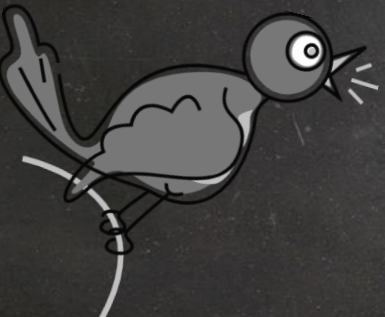
Sure, but how do I
do that, EXACTLY?

Why are they there?

Understand motivations

- Volunteer hours
- Experience & New Skills
- Resume booster
- Personal connection
- Like the organization

All youth looked at volunteer activities as supporting their search for employment, in skills development and networking.
(Andrea McArthur, 2011)



Wait, ALL YOUTH?
Even the ones that are
'disengaged?'
So if I wanted to engage
youth, I should focus on
skills & networking?
You mean **they've** got to
get something
from it, too?

What are they doing?

Define roles

Expectations

(our organization expects its members to...)

Outcomes

(at the end of this volunteer experience I will have done...)

Skills needed

(in order to do this task you need to know how to...)

Skills developed

(at the end of this task you will have learned how to...)

“You wouldn’t accept a new job without a job description, would you?”

(Emily Gray, just now, like, right now, 2013)

Why does it matter?

Who gives a rat's hindquarters (you know what I mean)

'Indirect volunteers' have unclear impacts

Take time to help youth create links between what they are doing and the greater scope of the organization

"Overall, youth felt that indirect service work was only attractive to, and understandable by, over-achieving youth"

(Andrea McArthur, 2011)

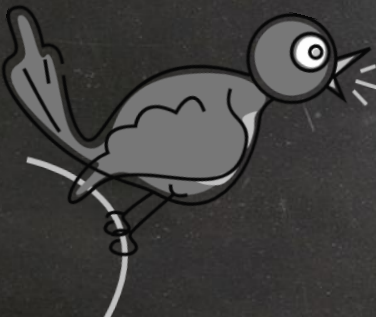
**NOBODY
WANTS TO
BE A
'KEENER'**

...ummm...What
does that mean?

Create hands-on, episodic projects



Youth like to work with their friends, eh?



Having more than one youth volunteer may mean that youth stay engaged with your organization longer, and feel more positive about their experiences.

Wait, I know! I could ask for **more than one** youth volunteer!
I am ***so*** smart!

3 pathways for youth volunteering

Aspiring youth volunteer

Barriers to engagement
(age, gender, language,
location, space, funding)

Disengagement: youth struggle
to volunteer to full potential.
Some do not volunteer at all.

Motivations: include desire
for a cause, volunteering for an
organization, public education,
leadership

www.volunteerguru.wordpress.com

Leadership the indirect service
Role: awareness raising,
fundraising, advocacy, public
education, teamwork

Empowerment: role clarity,
community feedback, clear results,
confident leaders, teamwork. Clear
understanding of work impact on
stakeholders and clients.

Tangible Service Outcomes:
youth inspire stakeholders to take
action for a cause, and see results of
their public education which benefits
the intended clients.

Role ambiguity: volunteer is
unclear about their roles and
responsibilities, the work of their
organization, the outcomes of
their work

Disempowerment:
outcomes of work and purpose
of role unclear, lack of
confidence as leaders, lack of
confidence from stakeholders

Failed Service Outcomes: If
volunteers are unclear about the
outcomes of their work, then from
their perspective they did not achieve
outcomes at all

In conclusion...

Be flexible and accommodating

Get to know your volunteers –
encourage them, mentor them

Be respectful about the
tasks and roles that you
assign to youth

Provide opportunities for
greater online/social media
engagement

Less age
discrimination

Provide benefits and
incentives

Communicate feedback to your
volunteers

Promote volunteerism in the media
& local youth centres & community
centres

THANK YOU!

YMCA youth GAMBLING AWARENESS program		programme de SENSIBILISATION AUX JEUX DE HASARD chez les jeunes YMCA
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Liked this?



I talk to youth and professionals who work with youth about how to
gamble safely.

Let me talk to you!