

# Engaging Older Members within the Local Club



# Objectives

1. Identify characteristics of older youth.
2. Define advantages of youth-adult partnerships.
3. Describe levels of youth participation.
4. Share recommendations for successful youth-adult partnerships.
5. Identify ways to engage older members.



# Characteristics of Youth Age 15-18

- Want adult leadership roles
- Need strong voices in planning their own programs
- Can consider information and come up with new possibilities
- Can initiate and carry out their own tasks without the supervision of others
- Lose patience with meaningless activities



# Youth and Adult Partnerships

- Youth are a resource that often goes untapped.
- The most effective strategy is working **with** youth (instead of doing things **to** or **for** youth).



# Advantages of Working *with* Youth

- Youth recruit other youth much more effectively than adults can.
- Young people tend to have fresh perspectives on problems.
- Young people don't think that things have to be done the ways they have always been done in the past.
- Youth have access to information that is difficult for adults to obtain.



# Ladder of Youth Participation

## Maximum Youth Involvement/Youth as Partners

Youth-initiated ideas, decisions directed by youth.

Youth-initiated ideas, decisions shared with adults.

Adult-initiated ideas, decisions shared with youth.

Youth are consulted and informed.

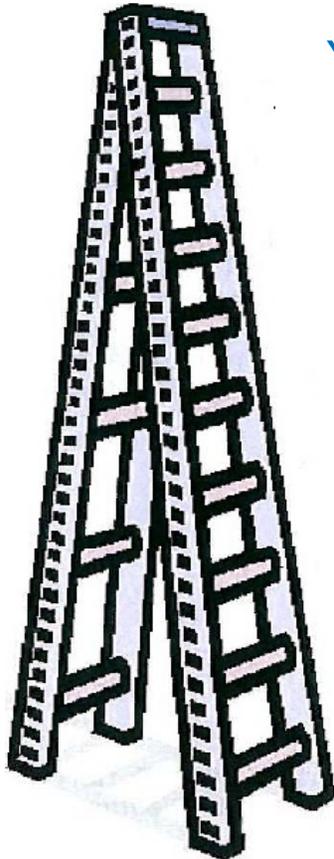
Youth are informed and assigned tasks.

Youth are tokens, may be asked for ideas.

Youth are used as decorations for the program.

Youth are used to communicate adults' messages.

## Minimum Youth Involvement/Youth as Objects



# Consulted and Informed

- Youth are asked what they think and want, but do not really have many choices.
- Adults still tell youth what their role is, but at least they ask first.



# Adult-Initiated and Directed

- The ideas of several adults are included.
- The adults consult with and share ideas with young people to make it work for both youth and adults.



# Youth-Initiated Ideas, Decisions Shared with Adults

- Youth come up with the idea and initiate adult involvement.
- The two groups work together to share the decision making.



# Youth-Initiated Ideas Decisions Directed by Youth

- This step is when young people initiate and direct a project or program.
- Adults are involved only in a supportive role.
- This is the most meaningful partnership for youth.



# Dos and Don'ts for Successful Youth-Adult Partnerships



# Adults

- Do involve youth in the decision-making that affects their lives.
- Do listen—really listen to youth and be willing to learn from them.
- Do provide youth with information and training they need to succeed.
- Do plan meetings so that everyone feels welcome.
- Don't stereotype youth.
- Don't blame all youth for the actions of one individual youth.



# Ask the Expert

- How have you utilized older members in your clubs?



# Engaging Older Members

- Publicize 4-H projects and activities
- Recruit new members
- Advise members in preparing exhibits for County Fair
- Assist in program planning

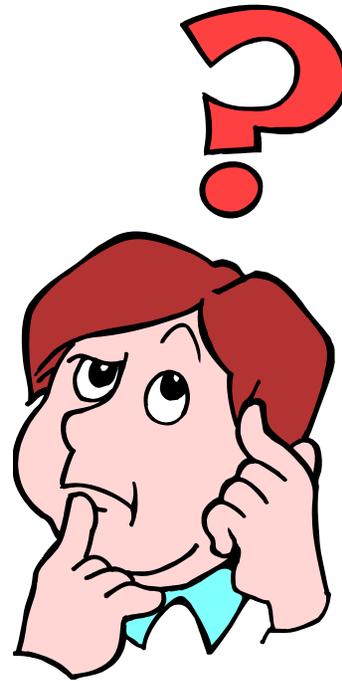


# Engaging Older Members

- Assist leader with Share-the-Fun
- Assistant with special 4-H club event (i.e., community service, fund raising, etc.)
- Help leader with club records



# Conclusion & Quiz



# Sources

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