

Engaging Older Members within the Local Club Fact Sheet

Characteristics of Youth Ages 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

Philosophy of Youth-Adult Partnerships

- Youth are a resource that often times goes untapped.
- We need to work with youth, not do work 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 way they have always been done.
- Youth have access to information that is difficult for adults to obtain.

Maximize Youth Involvement

- **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:** Young people initiate and direct a project or program. Adults are involved only in a supportive role.

Dos and Don'ts for Success

- 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.

