

2012 INDIANA 4-H CONGRESS

RESPONSES TO YOUTH ADULT PARTNERSHIP QUESTIONS

Youth Responses: 104 Respondents

What is the best thing about working with adults?

Experience – 30

Knowledge – 34

Money/Resources – 6

Assistance and Advice – 9

Learning new things from adults – 7

Understanding – 3

You can learn from their mistakes and know not to do that - 3

They usually know what they are doing – 2

They can guide youth to do a task correctly – 2

They do most of the hard work – 2

They can help you fix your mistakes – 2

They tell good stories - 2

Support and encouragement – 2

Committees

Motivating

Getting experience

Doing fun activities

Good role models

Help youth accomplish their goals.

Help us in ways we couldn't do alone.

It is well known that history is often repeated when it is not acknowledged.

They don't judge like kids do.

Creating positive impressions of our generation.

They are kind and nice.

Learning more about the community through adults.

Combining ideas from younger and older generations.

They are dependable.

They give us a different perspective and keep us in line.

They are responsible and organized for the most part.

They almost always know what is going to happen.

They are good at structuring things.

Youth Responses: 102 Respondents

What is the most Frustrating thing about working with adults?

Adults think they are always right /know everything – 23

Don't like new ideas – 13

They don't understand us - 13

Adults take charge and don't let youth lead – 10

Show little respect – 10

They get mad/yell at youth - 7

Age differences – 6

They don't think outside the box/use their imagination – 5

They don't allow us to do things - 4

They don't listen – 4

They don't trust us – 3

Their way is the only way – 3

Think we are never right – 2

They are too serious.

They expect youth to know what we are doing.

They are sometimes pessimistic and close-minded.

Youth Responses: 93 Respondents

What is the one thing you would like adults to know about youth?

- We can make mature, educated decisions – 12
- We are smarter than you think – 10
- All kids are not lazy – 5
- We like to learn - 5
- We are not all bad kids – 4
- We can be trusted – 4
- We need help sometimes - 4
- We want more responsibility – 3
- We look at things differently than you do – 2
- Youth do have experiences that are valuable – 2
- We like to have fun – 2
- We can be brats and be stubborn – 2
- We can learn by giving us something and saying “Do it!”
- We look up to adults, but the best way to gain our respect is to show us open minds and respect for even our most ignorant opinions and ideas.
- Sometimes we need a little push.
- Push us and we may succeed, don’t give us a chance and we never will.
- We want to be heard and have an impact.
- We aren’t all like the idiots on TV doing drugs or having sex. Some of us are still good kids with values.
- Be patient – we have not done everything before.
- We can be calm.
- Sometimes we make mistakes.
- Listen to the youth – we have good ideas.
- We don’t like to be nagged or discouraged.
- Explain things – we don’t always understand the first time.
- Youth are an amazing resource, but we need structure and support.
- Youth are funny and outgoing.
- We like to have a little more freedom than we usually have.
- We are exciting and always full of energy.
- We need to figure things out for ourselves.
- We like learning through hands on activities.
- We don’t know everything.
- We like to be treated like adults.
- We are still young and make rash decisions sometimes, so try to help us.
- Treat us equally.
- We are very unique.
- Let us have a life.
- Yes, I am a teenager and no, I won’t set fire to your car.
- If you teach us, we will learn.
- We want guided direction and empathetic listening.

Youth Responses (continued)

What is the one thing you would like adults to know about youth?

We actually value your opinion.

You are smart.

We are OK with guidance, but like space.

We all need independent help.

Being a teenager is very complicated and hopefully they remember that.

We can be responsible, but they have to give us a chance to show it.

We all may act like we know it all when in reality we are sometimes clueless.

Kids like crazy fun things to do.

We are awesome!

Adult Responses: 43 Respondents

What is the Best thing about working with youth?

- Their enthusiasm and energy – 16
- Their ideas and creativity – 11
- Watching them grow – 7
- They keep me young – 4
- Their eagerness to learn – 3
- Seeing their faces light up when they get what you are talking about – 3
- Seeing potential develop and watching them thrive – 2
- New perspectives – 2
- They keep you on your toes.
- They are eager to experience new things.
- The more you work with them, they come to trust you and find that you are someone they can talk to.
- Feeling like you are making a difference.

Adult Responses: 43 Respondents

What is the most Frustrating thing about working with youth?

- Lack of commitment/follow through – 9
- Their attention span/focus – 7
- Do not pay attention/listen – 6
- Attitudes – 4
- Reluctance to speak up – 2
- Understanding the importance of an activity – 2
- Cell phones - 2
- Lack of motivation
- Disorganization
- Immaturity
- Teaching
- Keeping up with them
- Being able to convince them that they can do it.
- They don't always see the big picture.
- Lack of respect
- Not understanding their interests
- Lack of patience and understanding why
- Not appreciating the information given to them about life experiences.

Adult Responses: 43 Respondents

What is the one thing that you would like youth to know about adults?

We were young once too – 11

We care about you – 10

We don't know everything, but we do have a lot of knowledge and experience – 6

We want what is best for you – 3

We can be fun too - 2

We have the knowledge only because we have tried before, learned, or failed before.

We enjoy pretty much the same things as you.

We want to help you get involved.

Adult life is no fairy tale; childhood is much easier.

We aren't all judgmental.

We want to hear from you – what your concerns are and what your hopes are.

We are willing to try new ideas.

We deal with tough issues in life too.

We love working with you.

Be respectful because you really are going to be old one day!

We make mistakes.

Don't take us for granted.

Adults can do technology too.

We need you.

Responses to group activity:

What are some examples of times when youth and adults have worked together?

Youth on Boards – 4-H Council, Extension Board, etc. – 8

4-H Clubs – 8

Community Service Projects – 7

County Fair/Project Judging – 6

Sports/Athletics – 6

Junior Leaders – 5

School – Teacher/Student – 3

Organizing Events – 3

Work – Employer/Employee - 2

Learning to drive - 2

Volunteer Projects - 2

Chores – 2

FFA – 2

Fundraisers – 2

4-H Camp – 2

Food Stand – 2

School/Student Council – 2

Tutoring

Committees

Internships

Homework

Cooking

Junior Fair Board

Workshops

Youth Philanthropy

Times of Need

Responses to Group Activity:

What made these partnerships effective?

Communication – 9

Mutual Respect – 6

Listening to Each Other – 6

Same Goals – 4

Cooperation – 4

Teamwork – 3

Time Management/Organization – 3

Compromise – 3

Different Points of View – 3

Knowledge/Experience – 2

Enthusiasm – 2

Responsibility – 2

Equal Input

Role Modeling

Patience

Commitment

Open Minded

Trust

Positive Relationships

Flexibility

Willingness to Let Youth Lead

Fusion of New and Old

Learn Skills

Responses to Group Activity:

What challenges did you experience in these partnerships?

Differences of Opinions – 9
Lack of Communication – 8
Not Understanding Each Other – 7
Age Difference/Generation Gap – 6
Not Respectful of Each Other – 3
Control Issues – 3
Compromising – 2
Schedules/Times – 2
Commitment – 3
New Technologies – 2
Not Willing – 2
Teamwork
Too attached to traditions
Transportation
Cautious
Getting everyone involved
Lack of focus
Lack of structure
Unequal distribution of responsibilities
Impatience
Unclear Expectations