



# Advice to Youth

Increasingly, organizations in all sectors are coming to realize the power and strength of including youth in their organizational decision-making. This trend tends to raise issues for the youth and adults alike. The following is a list of “DOs” and “DON’Ts” on how youth can more effectively work with their adult counterparts.

## DOs

- Listen.
- Be open-minded.
- Build on ideas.
- Be honest and authentic.
- See everyone as individuals.
- Show respect.
- Trust.
- Experiment.
- Be energetic.
- Offer a safe space.
- Be flexible.
- Share skills and information.
- Engage everyone.
- Provide support.
- Curb your ego.
- Keep your promise.
- Hold people to their commitments.
- Walk the talk.
- Be patient and persistent.
- Be consistent and dependable.
- Demonstrate your passion.
- Laugh and have fun.
- Schedule time thoughtfully.
- Create structure.
- Foster learning.
- Speak up!
- Invite adults to share skills, experiences, and resources.
- Seek to involve other young people.

## DON’Ts

- Lecture.
- Be close-minded.
- Co-opt or redirect ideas.
- Pretend to agree.
- Stereotype.
- Show favoritism.
- Fear failure.
- Stifle creativity.
- Be passive.
- Be judgmental.
- Force anyone to participate.
- Selectively share certain information.
- Ignore personality conflicts.
- Control everything.
- Be power hungry.
- Make half-hearted commitments.
- Expect more from teens than from adults.
- Be a hypocrite.
- Act uptight.
- Be unreliable.
- Whine.
- Be too serious.
- Assume all adults will treat you like “you’re just a kid”.

*Information gathered from Youth Activism Project, Youth Voice Begins with You!—A Resource and Training Manual for Young people and Adults Building Communities Together, and National Youth Service Day Toolkit.*

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