

County Youth Boards

For many years, programs for youth have been driven by the social problems or risks young people experience. These deficit-based programs are designed to “keep kids out of trouble” by exposing them to positive activities and relationships. They are usually developed and conducted by adult “experts,” with little or no input from young people themselves.

Over the last two decades, there has been a shift in the way many organizations serve youth with the realization that youth-adult partnerships are essential. Key ingredients in a successful program are the role young people play, the relationship between the adults and young people involved, and the settings in which programs take place (The Innovation Center for Community and Youth Development, 2003).

Research shows that when young people work with adult volunteers

- the youth programs will be more successful and have a greater impact
- the ability of young people to communicate well, solve problems, and work effectively with others will increase significantly
- the young people will mature and become more responsible and compassionate because they are involved in “caring for” other young people



Cooperative Extension Program
Prairie View A&M University

YOUTH BOARDS



*To ensure that programs
relevant to local needs of
youth are being devel-
oped and implemented.*

What is in it for me.....

Benefits of serving on the Youth Board for the **community**:

- You can be a significant part of the Youth educational process
- You can see the impact the youth board has on your community
- See the positive change in the Youth participants of the program



Benefits of serving on the Youth Board for **YOU**:

- Would you like to have a say about what happens to your community
- Be looked upon as a leader by representing the youth of your community
- Build up your resume
- Help with scholarships
- Build individual life skills through it all

Responsibilities of the Youth Board:

The Youth Board is responsible for educational programs associated with youth development. Members typically serve for 2 years.

The board's specific function is:

- To assist the county Extension agent (CEA) with planning, delivering, evaluating and interpreting the program.

Qualifications and special skills:

- Resides in the community or county
- Interested in youth development
- Understands the issues related to youth development in your community
- Represents the program's targeted audience
- Has good visioning and communication skills
- Interested in the quality of life for the youth of the county

Youth Board programs

The board should sponsor or play a significant role in at least one major program each year. This may be an ongoing program or a different program each year. The key is for the board members to work together and take ownership of the program to ensure its success. The county Extension agent facilitates the work of the Board and carries it through the program development process.



Recognition is given to Cory Talley (County Extension Agent – 4-H & Youth Development, Travis County) and Lori Halfmann (Extension Assistant) for developing and reviewing the manuscript and making many constructive suggestions.



Resources and support available:

The county Extension staff will provide the training you need to be a successful Youth Board member!!!!

Additional information is available at:

<http://texasvolunteer.tamu.edu/>