Why Involve Youth?

Involving youth in *authentic* ways can take more time, energy and creativity than doing a project alone, but the rewards are big. It is essential to have a strong understanding of the value of involving youth to keep you motivated when barriers arise. Below are a list of just some of the good reasons to partner with youth as you strive to make change.

- **Young people have a right to be consulted about decisions that will effect their lives, and will have unique insights into the strengths & weaknesses of a project aimed at youth.**
- **Young people are fun to be with and can teach you a lot.**
- **A youth perspective is different than an adult one and in the spirit of "two heads are better than one," multiple perspectives are helpful when trying to create change or solve a problem.**
- **Involving youth in authentic ways offers them opportunities to build skills and have leadership experiences that can influence their future choices and possibilities for work and school.**
- **Involving youth lets them know that you are "walking your talk" about their importance to you and your initiative.**
- **Youth have energy and creativity that when tapped can transform a project, community, school or any environment.**
- **Youth make great peer & community educators and can creatively get a message across—to younger students, peers, parents, and community leaders.**
- **Involving young people builds sustainability—young people who lead today build the skills and interest to lead tomorrow.**

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