



Involving Youth in Decision Making

Healthy Lifestyles Initiative Meeting
Wednesday, November 12, 2008

Welcome and Introductions



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Stories That Teach

Talking About YAPs (Youth-Adult Partnerships)



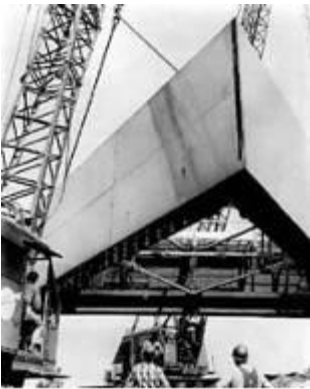
Stories That Teach

Talking About YAPs



Stories That Teach

Talking About YAPs



Conventional cranes placed the first section



Creeper derricks mounted on tracks lifted most sections



View of the rising Arch facing east, 1963



The workmen' elevator car would rise up the creeper derrick track



Case Example:

Extension Council Youth Leadership Program

ECYL Program goals:

- 1. Expand youth participation (ages 14-17) on county extension councils.*
- 2. Expand young adult membership (ages 18-25) on county extension councils.*
- 3. Enhance current youth/young adult participation on councils.*
- 4. Integrate youth/young adult participation into ongoing council leadership development.*

Case Example:

Extension Council Youth Leadership Program

“Walking it Out”

The Extension Council Youth Leaders training team was made up of an intentional mix of young people and adults.

Leanna Baumer,
Missouri State 4-H Council

Tony DeLong,
MU Extension Council Coordinator

Steve Hennes (right),
4-H Center for Youth Development



To view the ECYL training for councils on the web, visit:
<http://extension.missouri.edu/extcouncil/>



For more information on YAPs, visit:
<http://4h.missouri.edu/go/programs/yap>

Case Example:

Extension Council Youth Leadership Program

“At the Table Together”



The Extension Council Youth Leaders Program brings together University Extension faculty, citizens elected as Extension council members, and young people ages 14-17 interested in civic leadership in their communities.

Carter and Bollinger County teams pictured here were two of “Missouri’s Amazing Twelve” counties to participate in the initial training tour.

The project was funded by a \$10,000 grant from the Surdna Foundation and the National 4-H Council, with the support of the Missouri 4-H Foundation.

Case Example:

Extension Council Youth Leadership Program

“Satisfied”



Boone County Extension Council adults and youth use pipe cleaners to “spell it out.”

The Extension Council Youth Leaders Project sponsored a series of workshops in May-July 2006 to pilot training with councils interested in expanding youth and young adult participation.

The Boone County Extension Council selected two 4-H Teen Leaders (third and fourth from the right), to serve as the council’s youth representatives.

The youth representatives are paired with an adult council member who acts as a mentor.

Case Example:

Extension Council Youth Leadership Program

“Will it Stand?”



Youth and adults from Boone, Cooper, and Morgan Counties work together to get a model of the Gateway Arch in St. Louis to stand by itself.

The Arch model was constructed using the same engineering design as the Gateway Arch.. The Arch is symbolic of the dual support and cooperation it takes for youth-adult partnerships to work.

Case Example:

Extension Council Youth Leadership Program

“YAPs: A Win-Win-Win Situation”



Youth and adults from 5 ECYL councils were recognized during a ceremony at the Youth Civic Leaders Summit, a state 4-H event, March 2007.

A youth participant said of the experience: “I want to say as a youth member, the council has made me feel WELCOME. They ask me questions about who I am, who is my family, what do I like, etc. I felt I belonged and was treated as an equal on the council.”

An adult participant said: “I am learning new ways to communicate with youth. Now I know what they mean when they say...”



Case Example:

Extension Council Youth Leadership Program

Key steps for decision-making groups:

- 1. Redefine your group as a youth-adult partnership.*
- 2. Understand and tap into the assets of multiple generations.*
- 3. Formalize youth roles and expectations.*
- 4. Recruit and select youth to serve.*
- 5. Engage young adults.*
- 6. Mentor and retain youth/young adults.*
- 7. Identify a core team to plan/implement.*



Case Example:

Extension Council Youth Leadership Program

Resources to assist with planning/implementation:

- ***ECYL Training Module***
<http://extension.missouri.edu/extcouncil/ecyl/>
(7-part training for youth/adult teams implementing YAPs)
- ***YAP Resource Page***
<http://4h.missouri.edu/go/programs/yap/resources.htm>
(hyperlinks to web-based manuals & publications)



What We Know: Organizations

1. **Organizations Improve**

- Young people help clarify and bring focus to the organization's mission
- Organizations as a whole become more responsive and connected to youth
- Enhanced organizational credibility with external bodies
- Leads organizations to enhance their outreach in more diverse ways



What We Know: Adults

2. **Adults improve**

- Adults feel increased confidence and effectiveness
- Adults better understood the concerns and needs of youth and attended more to programmatic issues
- Adults benefited from a stronger sense of community connectedness



What We Know: Decision-making

3. **Youth and adults together make significant contributions**

- Youth bring fresh perspectives, energy and knowledge
- Adults bring organizational and administrative experiences; youth bring both a mission-driven and action orientation



Questions and Answers