



Iowa 4-H Youth Development

# How to Partner with Youth on 4-H Youth Committees

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- ✓ Schedule meetings when and where young people can attend; keep to scheduled time.
- ✓ Provide “youth-friendly” refreshments.
- ✓ Offer transportation to meetings and special events.
- ✓ Provide youth an opportunity to “hang out” and socialize after meetings.
- ✓ Prepare both youth and adults for youth involvement through training.
- ✓ Provide mentors for youth members; prepare adults for this important role.
- ✓ Try to attain an equal mix of youth and adults; and a good mix of females and males.
- ✓ Develop an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect.
- ✓ Be aware of how you speak to youth – don’t intimidate or put down; avoid “dated” phrases and “insider’s” jargon.
- ✓ Be a good role model – set a good example through language and actions.
- ✓ Actively seek youth input – listen and ask questions!
- ✓ Validate the thinking of the youth members; welcome their ideas.
- ✓ Be willing to try youth members’ ideas, even if past experiences were not successful.
- ✓ Give young people meaningful roles and responsibilities.

*Adapted from: Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Department of 4-H Youth Development, author: Rita Natale Saathoff*

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/Volunteers/Documents/313HowToWorkWithYouth.pdf>

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