

BARRIERS FOR ENAGEMENT IN YOUTH PHILANTHROPY

Sometimes youth want to engage in philanthropy, but face barriers that prevent them from doing so. Below are some example barriers and what you can do to make youth philanthropy more accessible.

BARRIER

Recruitment of youth is limited to teacher recommendations of top students.

Some kids are over engaged and stretched too thinly, while others are not tapped, creating a lack of diversity.

Transportation to meetings and events may be a barrier for some youth.

Youth may face financial or logistical barriers that prevent them from engaging in philanthropy efforts.

Projects may require long-term and consistent engagement.

Youth may get pulled away by other commitments or find the time too demanding.

Adults may struggle to trust youth to make good decisions and to be reliable.

There may be some reluctance to share power (difficult to step back and trust).

Youth are not respected or asked for their opinion.

Youth may feel as if they should be seen and not heard if not in a welcoming and safe space.

SOLUTION

Find youth through a variety of networking channels.

Look to your different interests, social groups, neighborhoods and social contexts. Use a variety of community resources and communication tools to reach out to youth.

Provide stipends that cover gas or bus rides.

A stipend can be helpful for youth to get to meetings. Also consider holding meetings where public transportation is easy. Arranging safe and trusted carpooling may be an option. Serving food at meetings may encourage youth participation and help with meal access.

Allow for youth ownership to show their input matters.

Adults may increase youth success by serving as mentors who model skills or provide ongoing feedback. Making logistical shifts to accommodate schedules and availability can help increase youth participation.

Engage in trust-based teambuilding.

It is essential to step back and give space to youth to speak. Empathy for others involves listening and stating what you hear without judgment, questioning, and seeking to understand before being understood.

Show youth you are listening.

Incorporate their ideas into the conversation. Showing respect by giving space and actively listening promotes mutual respect and flourishing. Encouraging involvement will increase their engagement with a project.