

mapping youth-adult partnerships

purpose • To provide participants with an image of where youth–adult partnerships are used in their program or organization and where those partnerships could be created

time 40 minutes

group size 20 to 25 participants

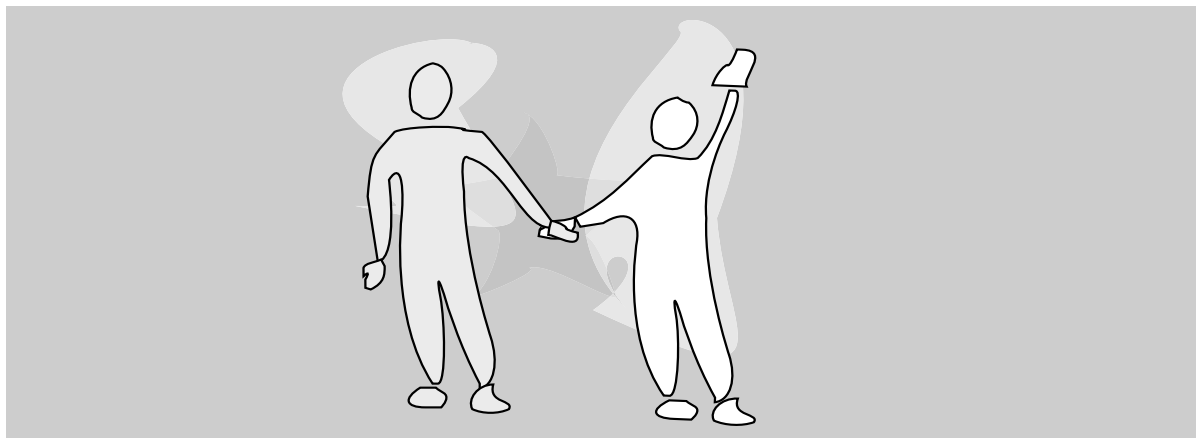
materials • Markers or pens in a variety of colors
• Paper and pencils
• Handout: Mapping Youth–Adult Partnerships

introduction

Explain that the group is going to use the Mapping Youth–Adult Partnerships handout to examine the ways in which their club, program, or organization uses youth–adult partnerships and includes young people in decision making. This exercise also provides a time to think of new ways and places in which they can work in youth–adult partnerships.

step one

Tell the group that they are going to draw a map of where decisions are made within their club, program, or organization. Have participants think of the last decision that was made that affected the entire group.



Ask them the following questions:

- Who identified the problem or issue?
- Who made the decision?
- How did everyone find out about the decision once it was made?

step two

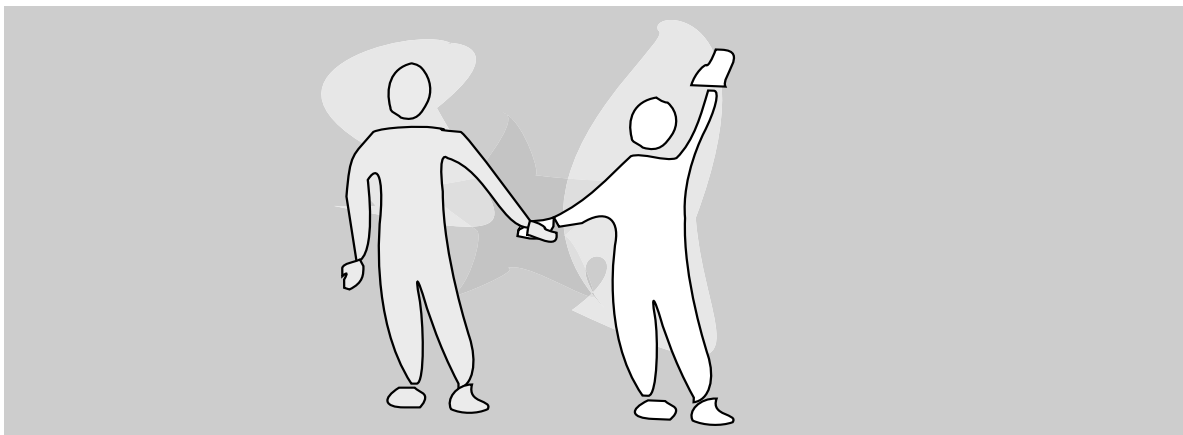
Distribute the Mapping Youth–Adult Partnerships handout and review the instructions:

- Think about all the groups, committees, teams, people, and organizations that make decisions for your organization or community. Include the groups that you are part of as well as those that you are not part of. In the square below, make a list of those groups.
- Think about where youth are involved in the decision making of the various groups. Circle the groups that use youth–adult partnerships. Also, think about the level of the youth–adult partnership—is it token, or do the youth have a full voice and vote?
- Now, think about the groups that could have youth–adult teams or that could increase the level of youth–adult partnership. Put a star next to those groups to indicate where new opportunities exist.

Have participants work individually to fill out the handout. Encourage people to find at least five new areas in which they can work in partnerships. Give participants about 15 minutes to fill out the handout.

step three

When participants have finished, ask them to compare their maps with those of other people from their team (if applicable) or in small groups of four or five people.



reflection and discussion

Process the activity in the large group using the following questions:

- Where are you already working in partnerships?
- Where are youth currently in decision-making roles?
- How easy was it to identify places in which you are working in partnership?
- How difficult was it to identify places in which you are working in partnership?
- What was your experience with drawing a map of your club, program, or organization?
- What were some of the surprises when you shared your information with your team?
- What does this exercise tell you about your club, program, or organization?
- How do other organizations that are similar to yours use youth–adult partnerships?
- How does this help you think about your next steps?

trainer note: Have extra Mapping Youth–Adult Partnerships handouts to provide blank copes for participants, in case they want to use this activity in the future.

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2. Think about where youth are involved in the decision making of the various groups. Circle the groups that use youth–adult partnerships. Also, think about the level of the youth–adult partnership—is it token, or do the youth have a full voice and vote?
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