



## connecting youth leadership to your organization's mission

- purpose**
- To think specifically about how youth leadership ties in with and promotes your organization's mission
- time**
- Part I: Interviews—1 hour  
Part II: Discussion—30 minutes
- group size**
- 3 to 12 participants
- materials**
- Discussion question list
  - Flip chart paper and markers
  - Handout: Interview Form
- prepare ahead**
- The interviews described in Step One must be completed in advance. Ask participants to bring their organization's mission statement for Step Two.

### introduction

Tell the participants that understanding whether, why, and how youth leadership is consistent with their group's or organization's mission—or even a specific part of it—will help them figure out which opportunities are appropriate and would likely have the most success. In addition, support for new ventures is much easier to build when people see the connections to existing commitments.



## step one

Part I: Assign participants to interview at least two people in their organizations, including leaders; longtime staff; and other associates, such as parents and young people. Have participants ask the questions using the form on the following page.

## step two

Part II: After the interviews have taken place, gather the participants and have each person write his or her current organization's mission statement on a flip chart sheet. Have participants underline the words, phrases, or sentences that indicate support of youth leadership.

## reflection and discussion

Process the exercise with the following questions:

- What did you learn from your interviews?
- How confident are you that engaging youth in leadership is appropriate for your organization?
- How can you articulate your reasons if people express concerns?
- What values seem to be important to express in the mission?
- How can you enlist support from others? Whom should you engage to support you?
- How can you engage youth in leadership on your own?
- Do you feel supported in your efforts to build youth leadership? If not, why not? What can you do to build support?

# interview form

Name of Interviewee

Position in Organization

Do you think youth leadership is an important part of the organization?  
If so, how?

If not, how?

What values of the organization support or challenge youth leadership?

How does involving youth in leadership forward the mission and goals?

What is the history of youth leadership in the organization?