

WITH 50 THINGS ADULTS CAN DO ~~FOR~~ YOUTH

1. Have a real conversation with a young person. Ask a young person what they want to do and how you can help make that happen.
2. Support community organizations that involve young people in meaningful roles.
3. Start a branch resource library of videos and printed materials on youth involvement in your community.
4. Financially and personally support community organizations that train young people and adults to work together.
5. Develop a mutual mentorship program between adults and young people.
6. Co-create or support along with young people a community center or place for young people and adults to gather and do constructive things together.
7. Listen to young people express their concerns and perspectives about community issues and help them take action.
8. Be an advocate for youth by making sure they're at the table when you are discussing them.
9. Help with positive activities for youth such as sports teams, hobby clubs, music, drama, scouts, etc.
10. Make the concerns of young people visible in your community by helping young people get in the door.
11. Write a letter to the editor about youth issues with a young person.
12. Respect young people as you would a peer.
13. Work with young people to plan a community service project.
14. Take an active role in schools by listening to students who have first-hand knowledge and finding out how to best help them.
15. Invite young people over to dinner.
16. Involve interested young people as consultants, interns, apprentices, and staff.
17. Be consistent and clear about your expectations of youth and adults in your home.
18. Team up with youth and youth-led groups to have a town meeting on a vision for youth in your community.
19. Identify and network with youth in your community who are concerned about young people and/or other community issues.
20. Connect with other adult allies.
21. Provide transportation to young people who would not otherwise be able to participate in community activities.
22. Team up with young people to support candidates for local, state, and national office who make listening to and working with young people a priority!
23. Help arrange for a radio station to sponsor a call-in show led by youth that allows them to talk about their concerns.
24. Help arrange for concerned youth to have an audience with the mayor and the city council to highlight their concerns and recommendations.
25. Talk with others about the importance of having a community vision for community youth development.

Adapted from Search Institute's "50 Things Adults Can Do for Youth"

26. Serve on an advisory council for a youth-led effort.
27. Only go to meetings where youth are invited or you can bring young people with you.
28. Be a friend to a young person.
29. Advocate for youth-led experiences in the schools so students can learn through hands-on experience.
30. Make your home a comfortable, safe, and affirming place where young people can “hang out.”
31. Help young people create a newsletter for your community on youth and other community issues.
32. Help young people create a listing of all opportunities for youth involvement in your community. Post it in your local library and schools. Have realtors give it to new families in town.
33. Advocate, along with students, for strong, comprehensive sexuality and drug education curricula in your schools.
34. Take advantage of young people who are learned in the Internet. Learn together by surfing the Web.
35. Sponsor a support group for youth who face particular difficulties such as parents’ divorce, violence, etc.
36. Raise funds for a youth-led organization.
37. Actively support youth-led organizations in your community.
38. Join (or form) with young people a community task force to address youth issues and coordinate responses.
39. Provide opportunities for young people to have meaningful roles at home, at school, at work, and in the community.
40. Cancel a meeting or engagement so you can spend time with a young person in your family or neighborhood.
41. Confide in a young person. Ask their advice on issues that you are struggling with.
42. Be an advocate for youth/adult partnerships in your workplace.
43. Start a parent support group to share ideas, concerns, and ways to listen better to children.
44. Value young people’s work and pay them for their work. Don’t assume that just because someone is young they are a volunteer. Hire youth.
45. Include youth on committees in your schools, faith-based environments, and community.
46. Attend events in the area where young people are actively engaged.
47. Write a short note of support to adult allies.
48. Treat youth as individuals; don’t make one youth represent all young people.
49. Avoid interrupting young people.
50. DO involve youth from the beginning with program events all the way to the end with evaluation of events.

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