

## Essential Elements of Positive Youth Development - Template for Sorting as Cards; print on card stock

"Among the most powerful means of enriching young lives is to enlist their energies in improving their own communities." - Great Transitions, p. 110

Encourage youth to try new projects and new activities.

Encourage ties with family and community.

Supplementing competition with cooperative activities and games.

Have voice and influence on decisions around project experience.

Providing multiple opportunities for youth to develop relationships with adults and peers.

Encourage bonds of friendship among youth and between youth and adults.

Offering opportunities for youth to serve their communities with peers and adults.

Characteristics that relate: successful, problem-solver, motivated and persistent.

Volunteers support and encourage the contributions and accomplishments of members.

Provide members opportunities to talk with others about what they are doing, thinking and learning.

Service to others and community is integrated into experiences and the input of members is valued.

Utilizing hands on activities, projects and exhibitions to build life and vocational skills.

Characteristics that relate: confident, responsible, self-disciplined and leadership.

Volunteer show sincere interest in the lives of his/her members.

Focusing on long-term goals of learning, including feedback and learning from others.

Including youth in planning discussions. Giving youth responsibilities to carry out with a minimum of reminders.

Assist older youth in setting goals related to career aspirations.

Project leaders push youth to take healthy risks, try new things and challenge themselves.

Physical environment is safe and free of hazard or risk.

Greeted/welcome when they arrive.

Characteristics that relate: cooperative, trusting, friendly and social.

Provide opportunities for youth to assess their work both their successes and failures.

Emotional environment is respectful, positive, supportive, inclusive, relaxed, and accepting. Reinforcing gestures of caring and concern for others.

Respecting the value of diverse cultures.

Characteristics that relate: altruistic, caring, empathic, and supportive.

Partner with adults and share control of project activities.

Set goals and make plans for individual and group project experiences.