

How do I involve youth in my community?



How can I encourage youth in my community to become involved?

Develop opportunities where you work, volunteer, or in your neighbourhood.

- 🗣️ Invite youth to participate in something you are doing.
- 🗣️ Welcome youth to help out in your program, a service that you provide, or an organizational activity that falls within your area of responsibility. In short, open doors.
- 🗣️ Facilitate their participation in discussions and decision-making processes (re: a program, activity, service, etc.) where their input would be appreciated.
- 🗣️ Encourage other adults to spread the word and invite youth into their programs and activities.
- 🗣️ Strive for diversity! Involve youth who may not otherwise be included.

What are some benefits from being involved that will encourage youth to participate?

Young people who have the opportunity to get involved develop participation skills, knowledge, and experience. This helps them to:

- 🗣️ Build self confidence to step out of their comfort zone and try something new or different
- 🗣️ Learn to work with others, both peers and adults
- 🗣️ Learn how to take action; i.e., to step up to leadership roles
- 🗣️ Develop an ethic of volunteerism and civic participation/contribution

Feedback from youth involved in their communities

"I loved the sense of pride I gained from helping facilitate large-scale projects, giving back to the community and working with children."

(Claire Piccinin, Youth Leader, Girls on the Move)

"Adults can let youth know what opportunities are available to youth, support their efforts and let them know they are there to help and to listen."

(Youth Participant, Bedford World Café, 2005)

Who should I contact if my organization has an idea about involving youth in the community?

Check out HRM's online Youth Tool Kit. Visit:

www.halifax.ca/recreation/YouthEngagementToolkit.html

The Tool Kit, a joint initiative with *HeartWood*, Centre for Community Youth Development, is full of ideas to support adults and organizations in youth engagement. If your organization is looking for a presentation on the Tool Kit, call your local community centre listed on our website: <http://www.halifax.ca/recreation/index.html> or call our recreation information line at 490-6666.

Other opportunities

The Regional Youth Advisory Committee

The Regional Youth Advisory Committee consists of 12 youth, two from each of the six Community Council districts in HRM. If you want youth input on any of your events, programs and other projects, please e-mail hrmyouth@halifax.ca or call 490-5451.



hrmyouth.ca

Another great way to reach youth and let them know you want them to participate or provide their input at your next event or meeting is to “Submit Your Event” online at www.hrmyouth.ca. This site is designed by youth for youth aged 13-19 years.

For more ideas and suggestions, visit www.hrmyouth.ca, call 490-5451 or e-mail hrmyouth@halifax.ca.

Information provided in the Good Neighbours Great Neighbourhoods Tool Kit is accurate as of the date of printing. For the most current information on these and many other HRM programs, please visit www.myhrm.ca or www.halifax.ca

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