

WHAT IS YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT?

FOCUS ON KEY LEADERSHIP ATTITUDES & SKILLS

Inner Self Characteristics

Motivated: Goal-oriented and having high standards

Self-awareness: Describing how you are feeling; awareness of how moods affect how you treat other people; admitting mistakes; knowing what skills to improve on

Persistence: Following through on promises; focusing on goals despite difficulties; refusing to give up easily

Communication

Inspirational: Having a positive attitude; showing appreciation or giving praise; motivating others; helping others

Confidence: Believing in oneself; disagreeing openly and constructively; feeling comfortable talking in a group or to authority figures

Active listening: Ability to listen and ask questions to understand; listening carefully; paying attention when others are talking

Communicating effectively: Getting along with others who are different; disagreeing effectively without starting an argument

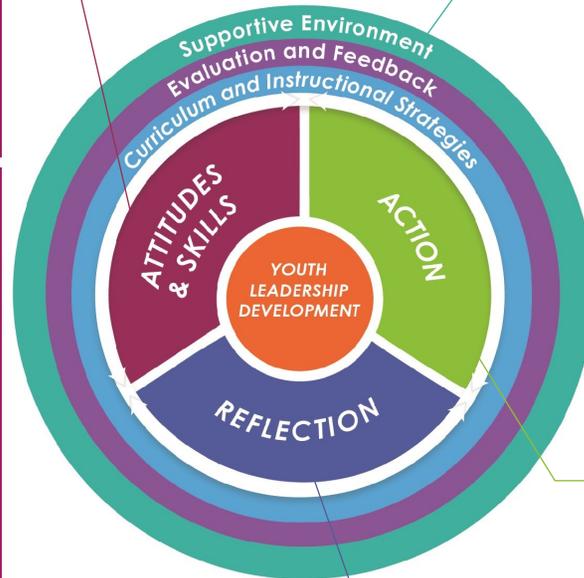
Ability to persuade: Changing the opinions of others by talking to them and persuading others to agree; gaining support from peers; actions that show others what you want from them

Collaboration

Having a shared purpose: Including others who have been "left out;" creating collaborative relationships among others; working toward a common goal

Convener: Bringing people together; listening to others when making decisions; seen as a "role model" by others

Delegating and organizing people: Respecting the ways in which people are different; assigning the right person to the right job during group tasks; understanding the emotions of others



CREATE THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Authentic opportunity: Youth voice and choice, participation on all levels with varied and progressive leadership roles, having the opportunity to give beyond oneself

Safe environment: physically safe, emotionally and psychologically safe, welcoming atmosphere, inclusive and diverse, and appropriate program space

Community building: Create opportunity for youth to feel part of a group

Mentor Access: youth-adult partnerships and relationships

Ask-listen-encourage: Ability of staff to carry out positive, purposeful interactions with youth

Reframing conflict: Role of staff in a conflict situation and ability of staff to turn a conflict situation into an opportunity for growth

LEARN BY DOING LEADERSHIP

Motivate: Role modeling, motivating others and inspiring

Mastery: Skill mastery, persistence and ability to learn from mistakes and commitment

Engage school and/or community: Service learning, civic engagement, youth council, counselor or leader in training, etc.

REFLECT ON ACTION

Continuous: Ongoing component, happening before, during, and after an activity or action

Connection: Consider how feelings connect to action and connect action to ideas about how the world works

Challenge: Refine understanding, deepen learning, engage in critical thinking

Contextualize: Evaluate action, ensure action is appropriate and meaningful to the experiences of young people

Recognize accomplishments

Make new plans