

## How To Do A Community Project With Youth

(Source: Flo Frank's Toolbox, Community Recreation Handbook)

Normally youth want to help their communities and be involved – they just are not always sure how to start, where to get help and how to get going. The following tips will help:

1. Youth can take part in existing programs or create their own projects.
2. If it is their own, ensure that projects are by youth and for youth – not adults having all the say.
3. Get a small group of interest youth to be the core group.
4. Ask for their ideas and thoughts about what could be done and how.
5. Create an action plan with very basic goals and next steps.
6. Ask them to discuss what might help support the project and what might get in the way.
7. Create a list of other interested youth and identify ways to get them involved.
8. Consider communication and information sharing – who needs to know what is going on.
9. List potential partners, sponsors or supporters for the project.
10. Develop a budget and resources and talk about where it will come from and who will ask for it.
11. Make a list of jobs to be done and assign them to those with the interest and skills needed.
12. Always work in pairs (two youth at a time not just one) to maintain momentum and confidence.
13. Start small and build on successes. Acknowledge struggles as well as progress.
14. Always start where the youth are at not where they want to get to.
15. Keep the communication flowing and keep everyone connected between activities.
16. Have fun and make sure there is always food, safe transportation and a healthy approach being used.
17. If youth have issues, make sure there is someone they can talk to in confidence to get help.
18. Recognition and praise go a long way to keeping youth involved and active.
19. Make sure that there are enough supporters for the project and address those who don't in a good way.
20. If at first things don't succeed – keep trying or reassess the goals and start again.