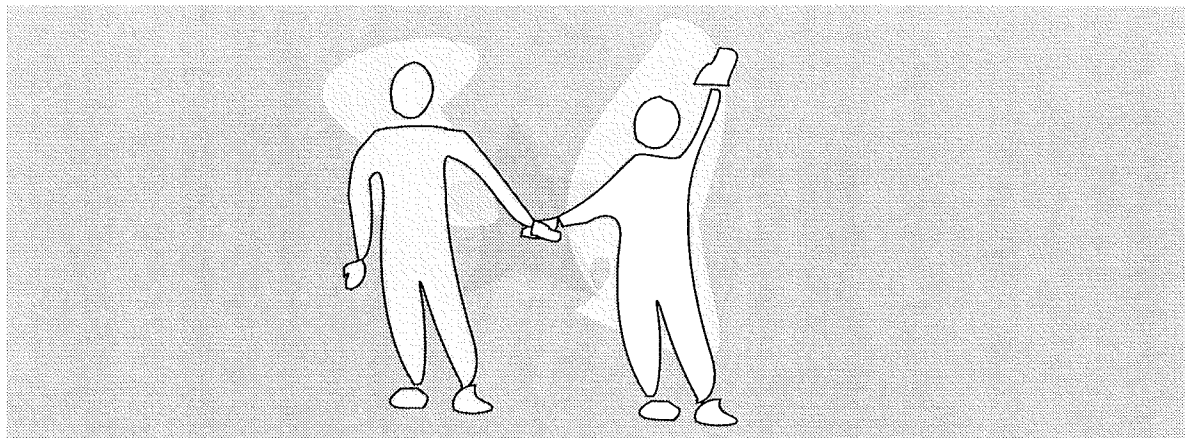


where are you going?

where are you going? - a handout

Where I am now	Where I would like to be
	I am familiar with resources about youth participation and youth-adult partnerships (e.g., technical assistance and books).
	I affirm and support people's feelings and ideas.
	I treat all group members with respect.
	I appreciate and incorporate the strength of similarities and differences (e.g., gender, religion, and race) among people.
	I resist the urge to take over.
	I am careful about interrupting people of all ages.
	I provide opportunities to reflect and learn.
	I believe in the potential and empowerment of all youth.
	I trust youth to be powerful.
	I identify positive possibilities in difficult situations.
	I listen carefully to people of all ages.
	I get involved and provide support when a person puts down or devalues someone else or him or herself
	I seek to learn from other people.
	I expect youth to make their own decisions.
	I say something when young people's rights are being denied or violated.
	I celebrate people's successes.
	I advocate for improvement of youth-adult partnerships in teams, organizations, and communities.



A few conditions must be in place for your partnership effort to succeed:

- Adults need to be willing to share their power and responsibility.
- Young people need to be willing to gain power and take on responsibility.
- Both youth and adults need the skills to work successfully together.
- Everyone needs to forget everything they have ever thought about youth and adults as separate groups and start treating them the way they would treat their peers.

adults need to remember these principles

- 1** Don't expect more from a youth than you would from another adult. If a young person shows up for a meeting 15 minutes late, an adult might think, "Aha, a slacker." When a fellow adult shows up 15 minutes late, the same person might think, "That's understandable. That person has deadlines and pressures." So do young people.
- 2** Treat young people as individuals; don't make one youth represent all youth. Young people understand that adults may carry negative images of youth and may generalize from the behavior of a few young people. Assure young people that you are interested in their individual opinions, and don't expect them to embody an entire population.
- 3** Be careful about interruptions when young people are speaking. For the partnership to work, young people must feel that they are valued and respected. In many youth-adult relationships, that respect is lacking. When interrupted by an adult, young people tend to stop talking. Both parties need to respect each other's right to voice opinions without criticism or censure.