

# Youth Round Tables at Fall Meetings 2022

## District One Responses

### Reflective Questions:

- a. How are you engaging youth in your fair boards?
- b. Are there innovative programs or activities that involve or engage youth in your District/fair?
- c. What would youth in your District/Fair say about “why” they volunteer?
- d. What would youth in your District/Fair say they get out of the volunteering experience?
- e. How do you reach out to youth currently not connected to a fair to engage them?

### Responses:

#### **a. How are you engaging youth in your fair boards?**

- Have a youth/Junior Director - but don't always show up. Three junior directors came up to Director position
- Have a mentor program
- Equipment is where some want to start out; want to be seen; want to be important
- Junior Farmer Rep on Board; volunteer director on board – focussed recruitment
- Volunteer for the school program and staff teen day
- Ambassador program; Youth Directors; generational; youth volunteer program
- Working in youth tent
- Changed make-up of board
- Free passes for volunteers

#### **b. Are there innovative programs or activities that involve or engage youth in your District/fair?**

- Mentor program
- In the children's tent
- SHSM (Specialist High Skills Major Program) for high school credit
- Acknowledge them on social media
- Provide them with meal tickets/ feed them
- Putting them in the right positions
- website (multiple posts)
- social media – attracts new people
- Word of mouth (schools)
- Appreciation nights – multiple; awareness and acknowledgement
- Local school reps with connections to school/board
- Forms on website
- Hosting youth events
- Ambassador program

- Provide day pass or food vouchers
- Youth run an entire event
- Engage youth in clean up or set up and give them a day pass to fair
- Give volunteer sweater and feed them
- Provide high school volunteer hours
- Pay them for parking after 5 p.m.
- Ag Awareness Barn – 4-H kids involved
- Provide networking opportunities/activities for youth

**c. What would youth in your District/Fair say about “why” they volunteer?**

- to be part of the community
- free fair passes
- many have parents or relatives on the board (now or before)
- high school volunteer hours requirement
- youth group activity

**d. What would youth in your District/Fair say they get out of the volunteering experience?**

- Acknowledgement/feel important/feel needed
- Volunteer hours
- Helps them decide what division they want to help with
- Free admission
- Social experience
- See their friends in the summer
- To be part of the community

**e. How do you reach out to youth currently not connected to a fair to engage them?**

- Get kids to bring a friend or two
- Engage groups like air cadets – hard workers
- Reach out to high schools with proper messaging
- Algonquin College Police Foundations program was excellent to find post secondary volunteers for things like ticket checking etc.
- Host other events on the grounds (youth events) so they know about the fair
- Don’t take youth to a meeting – disengaging
- Have separate (fun) meetings for youth
- Provide transportation

**Other Ideas:**

- Boards need more training to assist established members to be open to new ideas and youth memberships
- Important to put youth in the right positions for success .... Not on the gates
- Look at the OAAS Youth Handbook