RECRUITING AND MOVITIVATING POTENTIAL MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE YOUTH BOARD

Getting the right people to the table is an essential component for groups to function well. The following techniques can be used by county Extension agents to help recruit and motivate youth to serve on the County Youth Board.

Youth Board Membership:
- 8-15 people
- Representative of county demographics and geographical areas
- Majority of youth membership, 3:1 youth-adult ratio
- Serve a two-year term with membership rotation plan in place
- Youth, ages 12-18 years of age
- 4-H and non-4-H members
- Maintain a global perspective, thinking beyond the 4-H program

Example of Youth Board Membership:
- 4-H & Youth Development Program Representatives (2)
  1. One representative from a 4-H club
  2. One representative from a 4-H group such as special interest, school enrichment or after-school program
- Community and School Organizations (5-6 youth)
  1. Public, private and home schools
  2. School and community organizations
  3. Note: 4-H members can represent other youth organizations to which they belong as long as they are willing to think beyond the 4-H program.
- Adult Members (3 adults)

For more information on Volunteerism within Texas AgriLife, please visit: http://od.tamu.edu
The following groups may be considered when recruiting youth members outside of the 4-H & Youth Development Program. However, this is not an all-inclusive list.

- School districts
- Class and/or student body officers
- FFA
- FCCLA
- YMCA
- Boy/Girl Scouts
- Church Youth Groups
- National Honor Society

The following groups may be considered when recruiting adult members to serve on the Youth Board. However, this is not an all-inclusive list.

- Youth ministers
- Public/private school educators
- Public/private school administrators
- Member of local school board
- Legislative aide
- County Commissioner
- City Park & Recreation Department Representative
- Major business representative
- Chamber of Commerce Representative
- Youth/Family Service Agency Representative

It may prove to be more difficult to recruit youth members that are not involved in the 4-H & Youth Development Program. Therefore, the following tips may help recruit youth to serve on the Youth Board.

Make a list of youth you personally know. This list can be generated based upon group with which you work and collaborate.

Ask adult members to identify youth who may be interested. This would also include collaborators that could help develop a list.

Ask school administrators or club sponsors to recommend youth to serve on the Youth Board.

Ask youth members to invite/recruit one non-4-H member to come to a Youth Board informational meeting.

Have potential and interested members complete the Youth Board Interest Form (located on the Volunteerism Resources web site).

Speak to the motivation of youth! When doing this, sell the benefits of them being involved on the Youth Board, such as: supporting the community, making a difference, being looked upon as a true leader in the community, strengthening scholarship applications, and building a resume that will result in more higher education options.

“Youth and adult partnerships have revealed that youth involved in boards showed significant improvements in communication, interpersonal, problem-solving, and understanding-organizational skills.”
(Source: American Youth Policy Forum, 1999)

For more information on Volunteerism within Texas AgriLife, please visit: http://od.tamu.edu
What Motivates Youth?

- Having a say about their community
- Representing youth of the community, being viewed as a leader
- Opportunities to help build a resume
- Opportunities to help strengthen a scholarship application
- Building individual life skills
- Opportunities to network with others in the community

="Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."  –Andrew Carnegie