OBJECTIVES: Explore and name the potential barriers to working in partnership with young people.

Advance Preparation: Write a statement on a separate piece of flip chart paper and post around the room. Statements include:

- How do adults view young people?
- How do young people view adults?
- What behaviors have you experienced in intergenerational meetings that would not be helpful in building healthy partnerships?
- What behaviors have you seen that help build strong partnerships?
- How can we ensure that barriers to building effective partnerships are minimized or eliminated?

Materials Needed:
- Flipchart paper with a question on each.
- Markers

Time Needed: 30 minutes.

INTEREST APPROACH: If we can all agree on the benefits of having youth as full partners in the work that we do and in our communities, then what blocks us from achieving that goal? Have the group think about and discuss the real and perceived barriers to having effective and successful youth-adult partnerships.

ACTIVITY: Divide participants into small groups (six groups is ideal). Ask each group to stand at one of the following six stations, designated by the six sheets of flip chart paper hung around the room.

Give each group two minutes to brainstorm answers to the questions posted on the flip chart paper. Encourage groups to write down all answers, big or small. After two minutes, ask the groups to rotate to the next station. Continue to rotate groups until each has had the opportunity to answer each question.

After all groups have answered each question, have the participants walk around the room to review each station. Then ask the group to reassemble as a large group. Review the answers on each of the flipcharts.

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION: Pose the following questions:

- What words or phrases caught your attention?
- What discussion did groups have as they rotated around the room?
- What gaps exist?
- What new ideas did you see?
- What concerns do you have?
- What can we do in the future to address a barrier?

REFERENCES: This lesson was taken and adapted from "Youth-Adult Partnerships: A Training Manual" (2003) The Innovation Center for Community and Youth Development, National Network for Youth, youth Leadership Institute.

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