

Youth Councils

1. **Youth Councils** take many different forms depending on the need and structure of the organization/foundation
 - a. Youth board members – youth who sit on the organizations adult board (1-3 youth)
 - b. Youth Advisory Councils – council composed of youth
 - i. that meet weekly, monthly, quarterly in person or via conference call (5-10 youth)
2. **What is the need?** Do you need a focus group, a few youth advisors/board members, or a youth council?
3. **How will young people be recruited?** Do you have an active list of youth that you could call or a way to recruit youth? Do you have an application process?
4. **Expectations of young people** – job descriptions, orientation, retreat, meeting time and frequency
5. **What is the commitment of the organization/foundation?** Is there staff time dedicated to the youth council? Is the youth council in someone job description? Is there money in the budget?
6. **Transportation** - How will the young people get to and from the meeting location? Is transportation provided?
7. **Location** – Where will you meet? Do you need computers? A quiet and comfortable environment? Conference call?
8. **Communication** – Youth are often in school and don't check email frequently, you may need to call/text/or email them multiple times. Who is responsible for communicating with the youth council members?
9. **Relationships, Skills, Food, Fun &** – Youth show up at the table because of the relationships they create, the skills they may develop, food and fun.