Managing Youth Volunteers

Overview

Engaging youth can help organizations deliver their programs and mission. Capturing the energy behind youth wanting to make a difference—and in some cases young people needing service hours—can greatly expand your programmatic capacity. Learn to do this in a way that grows your community and protects yourself against the liability that comes with involving teenagers.

Webinar

Managing Youth Volunteers with Michelle Morris
https://vimeo.com/131484318
Date: June 19, 2015

In “Managing Youth Volunteers,” Michelle Morris from Volunteer Center of Washington talks about how to tailor your volunteer program to incorporate youth volunteers. Using the five elements of volunteer program management, this training highlights ways to plan, recruit, train, supervise, and elevate youth volunteers at your agency.

This webinar will help you to:
- Think about the emotions that you and your staff have engaging youth volunteers.
- Build a plan around orienting and training youth volunteers.
- Integrate the supervision and recognition of youth volunteers into the life of your organization.

Resources needed
1. Computer. We recommend you download the webinar onto your desktop so that you aren’t relying on the Internet.
2. Projector/screen or HD television.
3. Handouts
   - Discussion Guide (next page)
   - Presentation handout
   - Key documents:
     - Sample Liability Form – Youth volunteer program risk management sample
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Discussion Guide

Key questions

- Why is it important to engage youth as volunteers in your community?
- What could young people bring to your organization?

Clips of video

28:00-44:00 Recruiting and placing youth

- What is your biggest hesitation or fear regarding youth volunteers at your organization?
- What methods do you think would work to engage youth volunteers? What are other ways for you to attract youth to join?

44:00-48:10 Orienting & training youth volunteers

- Why do young people volunteer? How can you or your supervisor help contribute to that?
- What is important for you to know about your volunteers? What is important for them to know?

48:10-53:20 Supervising and recognizing youth volunteers

- How can nonprofit leaders address initial staff concerns about volunteers being too young?
- How can you recognize youth volunteers in appropriate and relevant ways for your organization?

Actions to take the next step

- Prepare your organization for youth involvement by planning risk management policies and other basic policies (e.g. parent notification, guidance on working safely) in place.
- Recruit young people through social media (especially Instagram) and partnerships with schools.
- Use language that makes sense to youth.
- Consider placing a volunteer mentor into your training process to improve communication.
- Prepare for evaluation ahead of time.

Resources for further study

1. Tools:
   a. Volunteer Management Guide

2. Articles
   b. The Top Down, Susan Ellis
   d. Building Strong Volunteer Programs – WN Vimeo Series with Volunteer Centers of Washington

3. Organizations:
   a. Volunteer Centers of Washington
   b. DoSomething.org
   c. Nonprofit Risk Management Center

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