

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

The Youth Leadership Institute stakeholders agreed upon a set of process outcomes that, in addition to being achievable and measurable, are informed by current research and youth development theory. These process outcomes articulate a set of standards for a quality program setting, one that facilitates positive youth development. In other words, they describe the types of supports and opportunities that address the basic needs of youth and that research has linked to longer-term developmental outcomes. YLI has designed an evaluation process that measures the kinds of experiences young people are having in a program, which reflects the extent to which a program setting is utilizing these practices, and achieving the process outcomes. We describe them in this way -- youth in our programs will experience the following:

A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

- Physical Safety
- Emotional Safety

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Knowledge of Community
- Interaction / Interface with the Community
- Communication with the Community
- Contribution to the Community

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY

- Decision-Making and Governance
- Youth Voice
- Action

OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP HEALTHY PERSONAL ATTITUDES & BEHAVIOR

- Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs (ATOD)
- Violence Prevention
- Academic Completion / Fostering Learning



OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD CARING, MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEERS & ADULTS

- Peer Knowledge
- Adult Knowledge / Guidance
- Emotional Support
- Practical Support
- Sense of Belonging

OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE IN INTERESTING & RELEVANT SKILL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

- Specific Skills
- Challenging and Interesting Activities



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