



# Youth Voice & Engagement

*Nothing About Us, Without Us*



**Tribal Youth Resource Center**  
[www.TribalYouth.org](http://www.TribalYouth.org)

# ▶ BEFORE WE BEGIN:

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# ▶ THE TWO “I”s

## **Inclusion & Involvement** in Youth Decision-Making Activity:

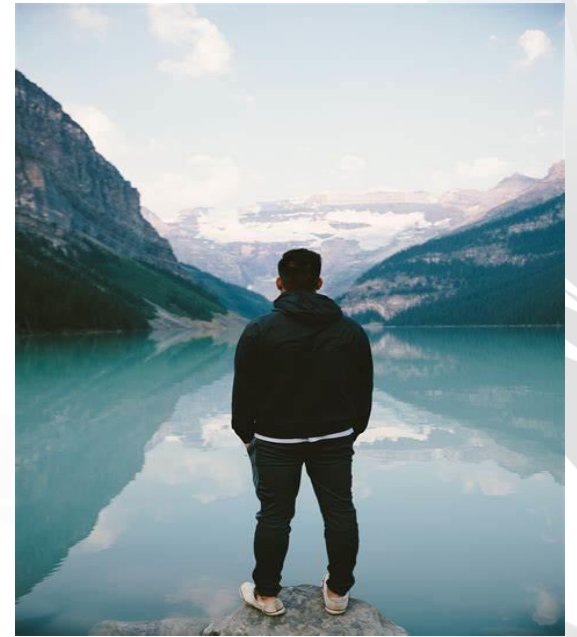
1. Mind Map: How does the community currently include youth in decision making in the community?
2. Mind Map: How does the community currently include youth in a direct hands-on way in leading initiatives in the community?
3. Mind Map: In what ways can inclusion of youth voice be expanded by the Tribal Youth Program?
4. Mind Map: How can youth voice be included in a direct hands-on way to guide planning and programming efforts for the Tribal Youth Program?

# ▶ YOUTH RECRUITMENT

Youth recruitment = going out in the community and *actively* engaging young people to participate in your Tribal Youth Program. You will need to create strategies to attract youth to your program. Recruiting youth creates an impact in your community by providing youth additional opportunities to learn, be involved, and be productive.

## DISCUSSION:

- Whom should you recruit?
- Where should you recruit?
- What partners can assist you with recruitment?
- Development of strategies to encourage referrals to your program





## Examples of Activities to Support Youth Engagement

- Host open community meeting and invite youth
- Set up booth at community youth event
- Volunteer at community youth events
- Meet with other youth-serving agencies
- Create Youth Steering Committee inclusive of justice-involved youth
- Conduct an interest assessment within community, talking to young people about what they want to see in their community



# ▶ CREATING SAFE & WELCOMING SPACES

## Native-Based Strategies:

- Talking Circles
- Focus Groups
- The Gathering of Native Americans (GONA)

# ▶ DISCUSSION

*“Nothing about us, without us!”*





### Tips for Engaging Youth

- Stop and be present and listen, don't be quick to solve any situations. Sometimes youth and family/guardian just want to be heard without brainstorming a solution.
- Be dependable, true to your word. Consistency is key.
- Update youth and family/guardian with any changes to a meeting, do not wait until the last minute.
- Be willing to spend time with youth and family/guardian.
- Ask open-ended questions and for feedback.
- Share with family/guardian what your intentions and goals are for your program.
- Give youth and family/guardian responsibility and leadership.
- Give opportunity to learn about healthy behaviors.
- Educate and train staff and parents.

## BEING A GOOD RELATIVE (HEALTHY BEHAVIORS)

- Confidentiality is very important (within your policy and for the safety of the youth and family/guardian).
- Set healthy boundaries.
- Be flexible and patient.
- It's okay to encourage and ask family/guardian to help.
- Be open to learning from the youth and family/guardian as well as educating yourself (Not just one thing works for all).
- Be their coach: challenge them, know they can do it, get to know their strengths.
- Have fun, laughter is good medicine, be honest.

# ▶ REFLECTION

