

YOU'RE ALREADY A YOUTH ADVOCATE, YOU ALREADY HAVE THE TOOLS!

You have enough to *start* somewhere



Mentorship, transportation careers and related skills, empowerment, civic engagement - the options to share with youth are **endless** and already exist within your agency.

You have value

Make sure the engagement is valuable to **all parties** – a bus pass might not be enticing if students already get free bus passes through school.



You can play the long game

When building relationships with youth, you'll have to show up several times for them to trust and remember you. You don't always have to be big and flashy but **relevant** and **reliable**. There is value in the long game.



You can go where youth are

Look beyond the traditional engagement BUT you don't have to recreate the wheel – sometimes it's as simple as asking questions during lunch periods. **Connect with schools directly** on how to best engage their students: work with schools to get students credit by participating. Show up to where students already congregate and offer them relevant resources.



You aren't alone!

Most, if not all, schools, have a career and technical education component. There are also several programs that work with schools to serve students you're trying to reach. Make that connection with **existing programs** to maximize efforts!



You can go beyond the jargon



Break down how your project will impact youth day-to-day and potentially the future if it is a bigger impact. **Empower** and teach them how to advocate within your structures/agencies/etc. when they want to see change. **Bolster** them up to become **change agents** in these spaces.

You can be a co-creator

Collaboration is **different** than expecting youth to have all the answers – it's not a fast process. Share space with youth to learn from them and help them understand the impacts and importance of the work.

We can't ask youth “What do you want adults to know about this topic or issue?” without the due diligence of learning from and with them first.

