Working Together

Youth involvement and leadership
Involvement

What does it mean?
Spectrum of Youth Leadership
Youth Participation

Youth give input into program decision making, sometimes
Youth Involvement

Youth provide regular input into program decision making
Youth Driven

Youth have important, valuable, meaningful roles in leadership positions, including governance and programming
Youth Run

Youth fill a majority of leadership positions and manage the day-to-day operations of the organization or project
Youth Led

Youth are in all major leadership roles and have majority membership on decision making group (board or council) with appropriate support from adult allies.
A few **KEY** questions

- Who decides how **RESOURCES** will be allocated? (where will we spend the money?)
- Who decides WHAT gets done?
- Who decides HOW it gets done?
- Who **DOES** it?
Moving Toward Youth Led

- Address power dynamics
- Maintain high expectations
- Prioritize youth voices
Moving Toward Youth Led

- Invest in leadership development
- Support personal development
- Be culturally competent
- Change adult perceptions
Adult Ally

- Strives to be a partner and role model
- Approaches work with young people as a mutually beneficial partnership
- Is clear about his or her intentions
- Creates a comfortable ‘space’ for young people
Adult Ally

- Includes youth in decision making
- Listens to youth, doesn’t ‘talk down’
- Does not assume that youth only know about ‘youth issues’
- Supports the hopes and dreams of young people
Team Exercise

How will you set up your project to integrate youth leadership and decision making?

How will you create structures where young people can graduate and take on increasing levels of leadership and responsibility the longer they remain in the organization?

How will you build the ability of adults to listen to and support youth in this process?
Report Back

• Each Team, report on ONE
  – Integration of youth leaders & decision making
  – Structure for increasing responsibility
  – Building adult allies
Affirmation

I appreciate the effort you have put forth to make your school and community a better place for all youth in your school and community.