What are... Youth-Adult Partnerships?

Youth and adults plan, learn, and work together; both groups share equally in the decision-making process.

- Each age group sees itself as a resource for the other; and,
- Each age group offers what it uniquely can provide.
- There is mutuality in teaching and learning among youth and adults;
Best Practices

For Parents/Guardians and Youth:

1. Acknowledge that youth (and older adults!) have value and that their contributions have value

2. Make a commitment to youth's rights and a determination to recognize their rights and to hear their voices

3. Hold high expectations for youth and adults and hold both accountable for their actions

4. Remember that youth and adults can learn together and serve as resources for one another
Best Practices

For Youth Serving Organizations:

✓ Adults and youth must work together to determine roles, plan activities, set deadlines, create guidelines, and divide tasks.

✓ Establish clear goals for the partnership (Set them up for success)

✓ If voting is used for decision making, youth and adults’ votes count equally.

✓ Meetings must be held when youth are out of school and meetings start and end on time.

✓ Adults should offer transportation for youth to/from meetings.

✓ Remember that youth have other interests and priorities.

✓ Do not favor and put most of the workload on certain adolescents; distribute the workload and give everyone equal tasks.

✓ Choose committed, reliable, and effective young people

✓ Choose adults that believe adolescents are an asset and willing to advocate for the youth when negative assumptions arise

✓ Commit the highest levels of the organization to fully accept the youth’s role and participation in the organization