



Engaging youth in your community

A partnership approach:

In order to undertake successful and meaningful engagement with youth it is vital to take a partnership approach, meaning:

- treating young people as equals
- working with them and alongside them
- valuing their knowledge, experience, expertise and input

A partnership approach encourages young people to gain a sense of ownership in the process and feel empowered and motivated in their communities in the future.

Tips for engaging with youth:

- build a trusting relationship: Invest time and energy into getting to know youth
- be transparent – tell them upfront why you are looking to engage youth and how they can be involved
- meet them where they are – go to places youth already are, whether it's at a recreation centre or community centre drop-in program
- give credit to youth – make sure youth know you are grateful for their involvement and give them recognition for the work they do



How can I encourage youth in my community to become involved?

Develop opportunities where you work, volunteer or in your neighborhood, by:

- inviting youth to participate in a planned community event
- welcome youth to help out in your community program, a neighbourhood service you provide or an organizational activity that falls within your area of responsibility
- facilitate their participation in discussions and decision-making processes where their input would be appreciated
- Share your ideas with fellow neighbours and ask them to share the opportunities to get involved with the youth in their day-to-day lives
- Strive for diversity – involve youth who may not otherwise be included

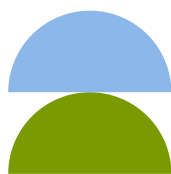
How do youth connect with the municipality?

Youth Worx Program: Up to 24 weeks of paid job experience and life skill building for youth between the ages of 16 to 24, currently having difficulty finding employment. While in our supportive environment, you'll gain hands-on work experience operating the Youth WORX Café or Canteen, in the community and by delivering/repairing green carts on behalf of the municipality. You'll also participate in job readiness workshops to improve your employability skills. Learn more about program and upcoming information sessions at halifax.ca/youthworx.

The Youth Leadership Program: for youth who want to develop leadership skills through fun and challenging learning experiences. Participants help make a difference in their communities by organizing and taking part in special events and assisting staff with children's programs.

Power House: The Power House Youth Centre serves as a place for youth to gather, learn and connect with others. Programs and drop-in information can be found at halifax.ca/powerhouse.

The Den: The Den is a safe and inclusive drop-in space for youth located on the lower level of the Acadia Centre in Beaverbank (636 Sackville Drive). Programs and drop-in information can be found at halifax.ca/theden.



Youth Advocate Program: is a crime prevention program that works with youth ages 9-15 engaging in or at high risk of engaging in criminal activity by strengthening connections and reducing barriers to create safer communities. Learn more about the program at halifax.ca/YAP.

Adventure Earth Centre: provides opportunities for people of all ages to connect with the natural world, to pursue a healthy and active lifestyle outdoors, to develop personal and leadership skills, to give back to the community, and to connect with other like-minded people. Learn more at halifax.ca/AEC.

Youth Advisory Committee: advises and assists Regional Council, through the Executive Standing Committee, on how municipal policies, programs and services affect youth and challenge the areas where we can do better.

Mobile Youth Support Team: is made up of a Youth Counsellor and a Youth Outreach Worker, providing drop-in and by-appointment supports to youth (ages 13-24) seeking advice or assistance in navigating challenges within their day to day lives. The program's focus is on reducing the risk of gun and gang violence within our communities. Learn more at halifax.ca/MYST.

