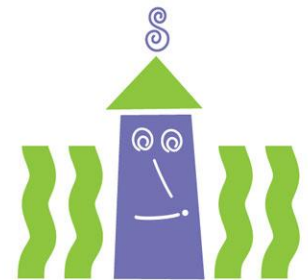


Developing Youth Enrichment Groups for Museums

Dod March
Youth Programs Manager
Stepping Stones Museum for Children
2016



Stepping Stones Museum for Children

Volunteering → → Enrichment

Youth Volunteering in a museum focuses on a few basic tracks:

- * Volunteerism and community relationships
- * Workplace readiness and responsibilities
- * Imparting knowledge of exhibits to visitors

Youth Enrichment in a museum focuses not only on the above but additional tracks:

- * Socio-emotional learning (SEL) of the participants
- * Leadership opportunities
- * Youth voice
- * Opportunity to create a safe place
- * Teamwork AND individuality
- * Creativity



Benefits of Enrichment Programs

Association of Science-Technology Centers

(<http://www.astc.org/resource/youth/index.htm#meeting>)

- Intellectual and Education Development
- Socio-Emotional Learning
- Workplace Readiness and Community Involvement



Benefits of Enrichment Programs

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Intellectual and Educational Development:

- feel smarter and value education more highly
- hone their creative problem-solving skills
- perfect their critical thinking
- become literate in STEM-related fields
- eagerly receive information and support to help them build their future



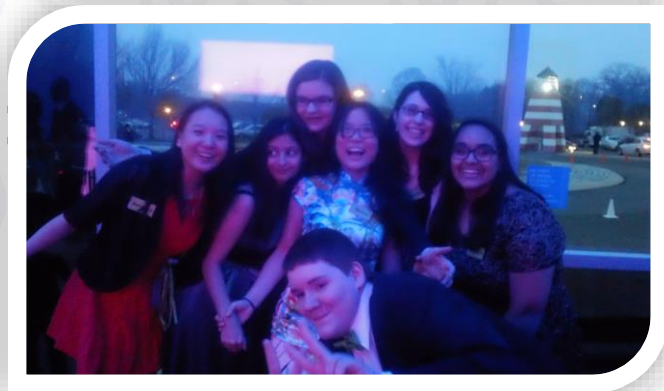
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Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

- enhance their communication skills
- develop positive peer support groups
- develop leadership skills and the confidence to use them
- become effective museum advocates/ambassadors
- discover the joy of helping and teaching others
- understand the value of teamwork
- realize they have a new place to call home



Benefits of Enrichment Programs

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Workplace Readiness and Community Involvement:

- seek out museum staff as mentors
- realize that they can have aspirations and achieve their goals
- appreciate their new opportunities to practice and master skills
- receive respect and recognition for their accomplishments
- appreciate the high expectations that museum staff have for them
- become more aware of skills they already have and learn new ones
- gain marketable work skills
- feel valued by a larger institution/community
- develop a code of ethics and a sense of responsibility to a larger community



Turning a Volunteer Program into an Enrichment Program

- Shake up the schedules by adding more options and reducing time spent in a single place.
- Create outside-the-box activities of which your group can take ownership.
- Create and maintain a safe, non-judgmental atmosphere.
- Nudge participants out of their comfort zone in relation to leadership and initiative. Don't make them do anything that you wouldn't do.
- Foster an environment that promotes friendship and teamwork.
- Seek out activities in the community for the participants to either assist with or take part in.
- Partner with schools to promote the message and mission of your program.
- Listen and provide participants with chances for their voice to be heard. Hear what they say. Strive to understand them by asking them questions about themselves.
- Don't be afraid to "age in reverse." Join with them. Treat them like the valuable young adults they are and not subordinates or "just kids."



Resources

- Association of Science-Technology Centers
<http://www.astc.org/resource/youth/index.htm#meeting>
- Volunteer Management: Mobilizing all the Resources of the Community by Steve McCurley and Rick Lynch
- The Volunteer Recruitment Book by Susan J. Ellis
- The Washington Youth Voice Handbook
http://studentsatthecenterhub.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Resources-Youth-youth_voice_handbook.pdf
- YOU and YOUR experiences!
- The youth in your program!



