Building a Youth Program

Ohio Museums Association 2023 Annual Conference

Monday, March 27, 2023

9:15am-10:15am

Exercise

Stand up – Sit Down

Stand Up for Youth Programs!

1. Stand up if there is a cultural center near your home – within 20 miles or so that a teen may be interested in.
    i. This can be a museum, library, performing arts center, etc.
2. Remain standing if you have visited this cultural center.
3. Remain standing if you took a teen to experience the cultural center
4. Remain standing if you returned with a teen for the same or different experience
5. Remain standing if encouraged others to experience the cultural center
6. Remain standing if you gave a donation or volunteered at this cultural center
7. Remain standing if your teenager gave a donation or volunteered at this center
8. Remain standing if there is a youth or teenage program at this cultural center
9. Remain standing if your teen participates there

I drove by it everyday

I never visited The Ashland County Historical Society

- I didn't know about it
- My friends don't go there
- Too busy
- Not open
- No events or programs
- It is a place for little kids
- It is a place for old people
- It is a place for rich people
- The people weren't friendly

Fast Forward 42 years

Pick me?

- The Ashland County Historical Society needed an Executive Director
  - Main objective – Growth and mainstay of the community
  - What skills could I bring to the table?

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Who is absent? The Big Gap

Where are all the teens?

- Look at KPI's – who is a visitor, volunteer or member
- Tours and programs for pre-school through 4th or 5th grade – Big Participants
- Why do you create a different experience for teens?

What Corporate America Taught Me

Youth Board Activities were missing from our experience

1. Get buy-in and support from board members, staff, members, and volunteers

2. Youth = Assets
   1. Learn from them

3. Immediate Resources

4. Hire the right facilitator

5. Check Legal

6. Rules

7. Have fun!

≈350

Student volunteer hours in 2022

Out of 800 total volunteer hours

- Ashland High School
- Mapleton High School
- Loudonville High School Track Team
- Ashland County-West Holmes Career Center
- Ashland County Community Academy
- Ashland Community Foundation
- ACHS Youth Board

Personal Experience with a Youth Program

Galion Historical Society

- Sophomore year of high school through Sophomore year of College
- Volunteered 100+ hours each year with Inventory Committee
- Cemetery Walk, Car Show, Trunk-or-Treat, Christmas Decorating

Ohio State Reformatory

- Summer job through college
- Docent and Tour Guide

Event Coordinator - Ashland County Historical Society

Purpose of a Youth Program

Short-Term Benefits

Long-Term Benefits

Purpose of a Youth Program

Short-Term Benefits

- Students feel a sense of belonging
- Free help
- Young, able-bodied help
- Student achieves volunteer hours
- Increase attendance and awareness of the organization

Long-Term Benefits

- Future membership
- Lifelong volunteers
- Future board members, donors or staff
- Develop advocates for the museum

Feel Like You're Not Ready?

- Start with student volunteers → NHS, school organizations
- Build connections and trust
- Get students in the door
- Figure out what works, what students like to help with, what schools/organizations are willing to help

First Steps:

1. Identify possible organizations of interest
    a. Local high schools and/or universities (special interest clubs)
    b. Community groups (churches, 4H, foundations)
2. Reach out to organizations
    a. Teachers, Guidance Counselors, Chairpersons/Board Members, Directors
3. Build rapport
    a. Visit the organization or invite them to visit you!
    b. What's in it for the student? (benefits, appeal)
4. Schedule your first meeting and spread the word

Did You Know?

Ohio Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2023 and Beyond

In addition to fulfilling curriculum requirements and meeting the competency requirements listed above, students also must show they are prepared for their next steps after high school. **State law created 12 diploma seals for students to demonstrate academic, technical and professional readiness for careers, college, the military or self-sustaining professions.** Each seal allows students to demonstrate knowledge and skills essential for future success in their chosen post-high school paths. **Students will demonstrate readiness by earning at least two diploma seals, one of which must be state defined.** Seals help students develop an array of critical skills that are valuable to them as they transition to the next steps after high school. Schools should consider encouraging students to pursue seals that meet their individual interests and skills. Graduation planning will be an important step in supporting students in earning their seals.

COMMUNITY SERVICE SEAL:

Students will meet the requirement of the Community Service Seal by completing a community service project that meets the guidelines set by the school district board of education or school governing authority.
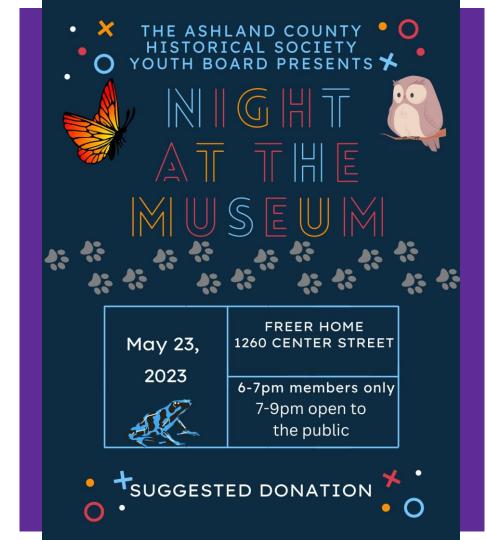
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT SEAL:

Students will meet the requirement of the Student Engagement Seal by participating in extracurricular activities such as (but not limited to) athletics, clubs or student government, to a meaningful extent, as determined by the guidelines set by the school district board of education or school governing authority.

First Meeting:

- Handbook - signed and returned by second meeting
- Time commitment, Responsibilities and Expectations
- Mission, Vision, Values of ACHS and Youth Board
- Overview of ACHS and Program
- Meeting location and times
- Contact Info/Communication Plan*
- Volunteer Opportunities
- ACHS Youth Board Budget and 2023 Project (Spring Event)

Spring Event Plan

Results:

- Dedicated volunteers with a fresh perspective
  - Who have learned something new about Ashland History
  - Perhaps developed a new passion or hobby
  - Inform their friends/family
- Challenges
  - How do we get the attention of principals and administrators that will drill the program down to the advisors?
  - How do we recruit more students into the program?

500 student volunteer hours

2023 Goal