



Developing Youth Leaders in an Alternative Peer Group

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The Advantages of Youth Leadership

Develop the ability to analyze their own strengths and weaknesses, set personal and professional goals, and have the self-esteem, confidence, and motivation to carry them out.

Young people learn how to work in a team setting, manage their time, conduct themselves in a professional manner, and develop organization skills.

Youth leaders who can motivate their peers and lead by example will make the youth group stronger and more effective.

Through leadership opportunities, young people begin their journey towards building an outstanding resume for employment and secondary education.



Youth Leadership Challenges

Recognizing and Overcoming Barriers

We all know the basics of effective leadership. Communication, being teachable, sacrifice, etc. Here is the golden question... How does one teach this to an adolescent? It's quite simple, it starts from the top. Staff has to model the behavior that you want to see from your participants, and be willing to help them grow.



Youth Advisory Council

Creating Opportunities for Success

Our Youth Advisory Council creates opportunities for our youth population to establish and progress on their leadership skills. Through our advisory council, clients are able to provide feedback and input into the quality of our program services. They also have the empowerment to recruit new members of the advisory council.

Establishing a Welcoming Environment

Promoting Equality and Inclusion

At Rise Recovery, our Youth Advisory Council is open to all group members who have a desire to enhance their quality of life. An effective youth leadership group honors the unique pathways of every individual, regardless of race, gender identity, or sobriety time.





Creating and Communicating Boundaries

Develop your guidelines in a way that is helpful to your clients, but also maintains the integrity of your program.

Find balance between accountability and open-mindedness. Having this balance is imperative when working with young people.

Effective youth leaders will not only abide by the guidelines, but will also hold their peers accountable to the boundaries, as well.

Communicate your program boundaries in a safe and loving manner. Remember...we're working with kids.

Getting Past Obstacles

Restorative
Discipline

01

First, it's important to communicate your program boundaries, and ask for acknowledgment from your clients. This lets clients know what is expected of them.



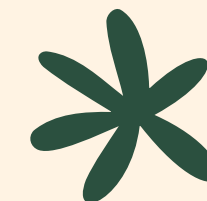
02

In the event that a boundary is broken, it is best to provide re-direction. Remember, you don't want to do this in a group setting.



03

If re-direction is not working, it's beneficial to establish an accountability plan for the individual. This will help guide them in their journey, and still allow them to be a part of your council.



Developing the Next Generation of Leaders

Encouraging the Upcoming Generation of Leaders



As staff, you want to model the behaviors you would like to see. This will then encourage your peer leaders to model the same behaviors they want to see from their peers. Ultimately, this becomes a chain reaction.

Thank You



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