

Looking at Youth Activities through an Asset-Building Lens

Activity or Program:

Asset category	How well does the activity currently build this asset category?	How could we improve the asset-building potential of this activity or program?	How will we know whether we've been successful in improving it?
<p>Support: The activity fosters caring relationships and a warm climate in which all youth feel welcomed and accepted.</p>			
<p>Empowerment: The activity empowers youth to serve and lead, and offers them physical and emotional safety.</p>			
<p>Boundaries and Expectations: The activity supports appropriate boundaries for behavior and challenges youth to do and be their best.</p>			
<p>Constructive Use of Time: The activity utilizes young people's time for enrichment and personal growth.</p>			
<p>Commitment to Learning: The activity encourages curiosity, learning, and discovery.</p>			
<p>Positive Values: The activity articulates, teaches, and reinforces values like honesty, responsibility, and integrity.</p>			
<p>Social Competencies: The activity builds young people's life and relationship skills.</p>			
<p>Positive Identity: The activity nurtures a sense of purpose, worth, and possibilities for the future.</p>			

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Sample Tool 9:

Looking at Youth Activities through an Asset-Building Lens

Activity or Program: Hoops and Homework after-school program

Asset category	How well does the activity currently build this asset category?	How could we improve the asset-building potential of this activity or program?	How will we know whether we've been successful in improving it?
<p>Support: The activity fosters caring relationships and a warm climate in which all youth feel welcomed and accepted.</p>	<p>Most participants work well together AND have fun together.</p>	<p>Watch for young people who are standing on the sidelines and be sure they get a special invitation to join in.</p>	<p>An observer will immediately be struck by the warm climate and the obvious caring and attention all the participants get.</p>
<p>Empowerment: The activity empowers youth to serve and lead, and offers them physical and emotional safety.</p>	<p>It's safe, at least physically, though there have been incidents of interracial and intergender tension. Usually the program organizers lead activities.</p>	<p>Add a learning component about respecting individual strengths and differences; look for young people who might "blossom" if given a chance to be an assistant leader.</p>	<p>When young people are surveyed, a high percentage reports feeling safe and a high percentage reports perceiving the program as providing all participants with leadership opportunities.</p>
<p>Boundaries and Expectations: The activity supports appropriate boundaries for behavior and challenges youth to do and be their best.</p>			

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