

Teens Venture Outdoors - Now What!?

Who Are They...

They are youth ages 13-21 who are:

- Social
- Self-conscious
- Goal- and task-oriented
- Comfortable with technology

At this time in their life they:

- Are developing personal opinions of the world and its issues
- Have a very strong sense of justice and fairness
- Have an understanding of complex issues (not just black & white, right & wrong)

“Some young people don't know who they are, what they can be or even want to be. They are afraid, but they don't know of what. They are angry, but they don't know at whom. They are rejected and they don't know why. *All they want is to be somebody.*”

-Thomas S. Monson

Expectations

Teens have of an engaging program...

- Challenging
- Social
- Allows them to
 - take risks
 - be treated like adults,
 - be taken seriously
 - have independence
 - make choices

Expectations

We have for Teens...

Positive

Civic engagement
Service Learning
Be advocates
Understand their impact
To be engaged
To be interested in
the environment

Negative

Aloof
Unfocused
Immature
Distracted
Disengaged

HELP!

Tips and Techniques

Do Not:

- A) Single-out individuals
- B) Treat them like children (even if they are children in your eyes!)
- C) Use songs, puppets, or (many) games
- D) Reject their ideas

Do:

- A) Have group-wide activities, ask for voluntary responses/participation
- B) Anticipate a high level of knowledge and maturity- adjust if needed
- C) Use discussions, problem-solving, role-playing, physical and mental challenges, team-builders, and journaling
- D) Take them seriously!

Big Picture

- Career Development
 - Empower them!
- Actions = Results (CAEE)
 - Mentor
- They are future stewards

Even though you may not be inclined...take them seriously!

"If a child is to keep his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in." ~Rachel Carson

