

Engaging Young People in Advocacy



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Scott Davis

Our American Generation (OAG)

- **Integrate Social Life**
 - if you can *integrate social functions into activism*, then kids will make time to be involved.
- **Get to Know Individual Strengths**
 - pay close attention to individuals' *interests and skills* and tell them what you'd like them to do, and that *they're perfect for the job*.
- **Many Levels of Involvement**
 - create *many layers of leadership and involvement*, with varying levels of commitment that are *malleable instead of set in stone*.



Lee Reeves

Campaign Manager

Senator Rodney Tom 48th LD

- **Speak in a youthful way**
 - Young people like language that is quick, fun, and exciting. Emphasize involvement and how they can contribute.
- **Appreciate your youth volunteers**
 - Young people are shrewd detectors of bull and will demand honesty and behavior that matches your rhetoric. Walk the talk.
- **Reward frequently**
 - Provide verbal feedback consistently. Even if the work is serious, make sure that you throw in some fun.

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."



Maggie Wilkens

League of Education Voters

- **Its about the experience**
 - Young people value process and time, not necessarily “things.” Build community amongst yourselves
- **Incorporate their ideas and feedback**
 - Creates buy-in and investment in your projects if young people can see themselves in the work
- **Help them craft their story**
 - When testifying, when meeting legislators, when writing letters to editors, when phone banking etc. its always about their voice and their perspective. Help hone their message



- Introductions
- Questions:
 - What is one thing you've learned from working with young people?
 - What is one thing you feel like you've taught or modeled for young people?
 - What is one way you have engaged young folks that you think has been successful?

Small groups

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