



Youth Challenge

The Challenge

The Step Up Junior High Challenge is a unique opportunity for youth to:

- Build leadership
- Impact their school and community

The Challenge is sponsored by the Tulare County Gang Prevention Task Force, with the goals of:

- Decreasing gang activity
- Supporting positive options for youth





IT'S A BATTLE OF INFLUENCE!

Timeline

- Today: Challenge Advisor Training
- October 7, 2011: Initial surveys due
- October 13, 2011: Challenge Summit, Visalia Convention Center
- October-March: Project implementation at school sites
- March 23, 2012: Projects due, including final surveys
- April 12, 2012: Challenge Awards



Events Background

1. Challenge Summit (Fall)

- A day-long experience designed to help you and your team get inspired and organized for your Challenge Project

2. Challenge Awards (Spring)

- A red-carpet event celebrating and recognizing the hard work of the Challenge Teams and Advisors



Challenge Advisor

A dedicated adult, who will:

- Identify appropriate youth and recruiting them for the program (youth who have potential to influence others; to include youth who use their influence for negative purposes)
- Identify the needs and goals of the participants, the school, and the community, to help the team develop a project plan.
- Coach and be a role model for each youth.
- Facilitate the development and completion of the project plan
- Act as a liaison between the youth and the school/community to facilitate youth access to resources needed for the project
- Assist youth in conducting presentations on their project to community or countywide audiences



Challenge Team

A group of 10 students who will:

- Choose which Challenge Theme is most important to their school and/or community
- Develop a project plan and complete a project
- Conduct presentations on their project to school, community, or countywide audiences
- Final report to document the project (using report template, but may also include Power Point, video, etc.)



Challenge Project Themes

1. Gangs
2. Drug abuse
3. Relationships (peer pressure, bullying, relationship abuse, etc.)
4. Self (self-esteem, suicide prevention, etc.)
5. Other theme identified by the Challenge Team that greatly affects their school. (Teams choosing this category will need the approval of the Challenge Committee before moving forward with their project.)



Challenge Project

- Developed by students and advisor on one of the themes and can have an impact on the school population and/or community
- To be carried out from October-March
- Completed projects will compete to win prizes
 - ✓ For students
 - ✓ For schools



Youth Involvement is Critical...

Research has shown that youth tend to work harder, achieve more, and with a better attitude when actively involved and included in not just the outcome of a process but the process itself.

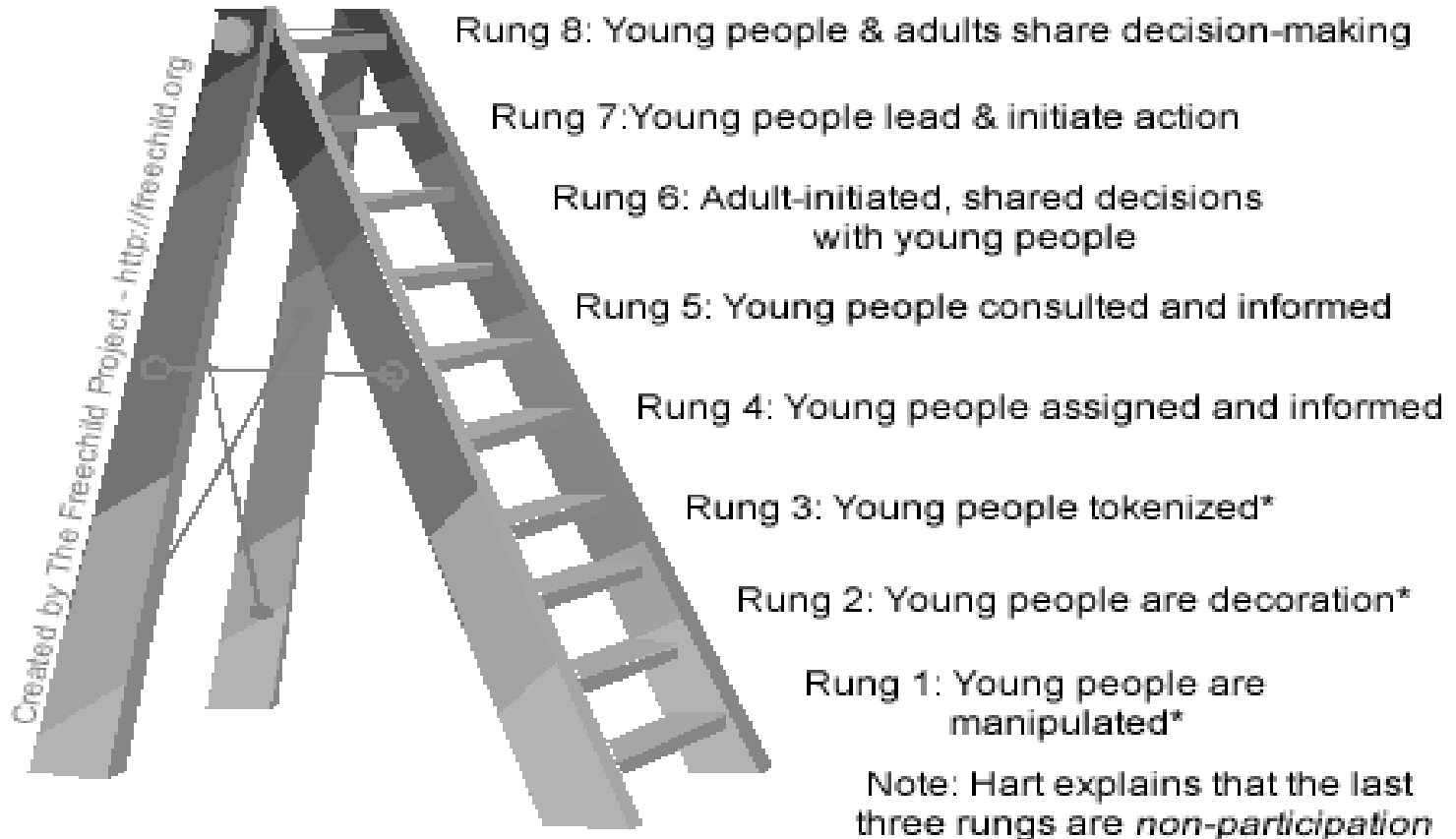
A High Level of “Youth Involvement” can Develop the Following Benefits for Young People:

- Increased status and stature in the community
- Improved competencies and increased self-esteem
- Stronger skills and experience as leaders
- Greater knowledge and understanding of other cultures
- Increased self-discipline and schedule management
- Greater appreciation of the multiple roles of adults
- Broader career choices.



Youth Involvement

Roger Hart's Ladder of Young People's Participation



Adapted from Hart, R. (1992). *Children's Participation from Tokenism to Citizenship*. Florence: UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre.

Data

- Participating Schools will submit pre and post data on:
 - Grades
 - Attendance
 - Behavior
 - Test scores
 - Self esteem
 - Civic engagement
 - Skills development
 - Knowledge of project area
- Surveys due by Friday October 7, 2011
 - Students via Survey Monkey
 - Advisors via E-mail to steptc@co.tulare.ca.us



Logistics

- Student recruitment and registration forms
- Transportation grant
- Advisor stipend
 - Agreement
 - W-9 form



Challenge Point System

Component	Maximum Points
Component 1 – Meets a real school or community need	20 points
Component 2 – Coordinates with a community agency, another school, a business, or the community at large	20 points
Component 3 – Helps foster civic responsibility	20 points
Component 4 – Final report (written, Power Point, video, etc.)	20 points
Component 5 – Impact on the school or community	20 points
TOTAL POSSIBLE	100 points

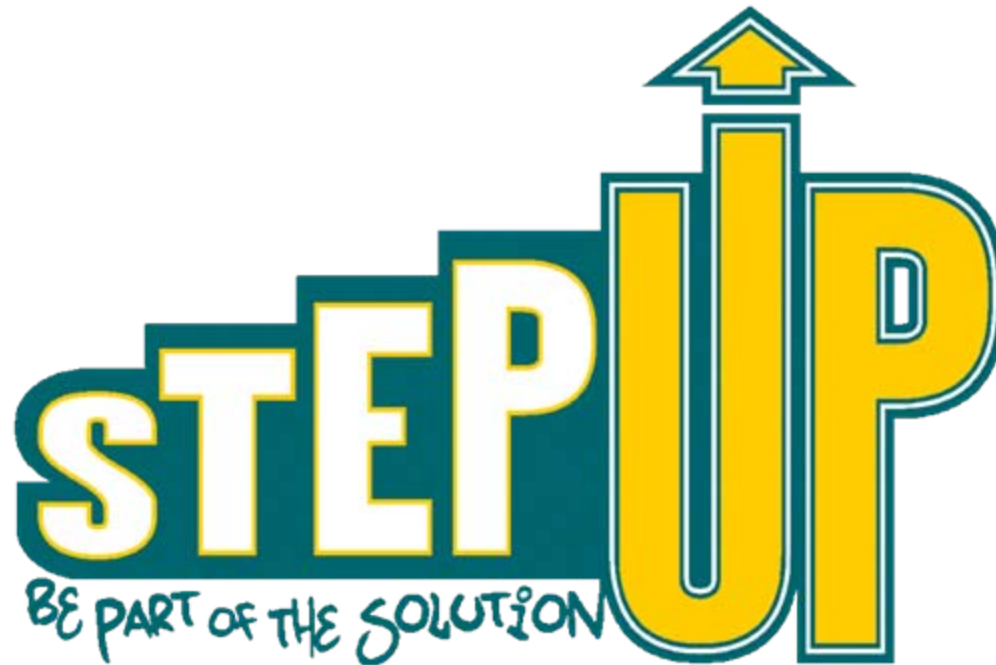
Grants

Excellence	<i>For the project that demonstrates excellence in all areas</i>	\$5,000
Impact	<i>For the project that has the most significant impact on the school or community</i>	\$2,500
Innovation	<i>For the most creative or original project</i>	\$2,500
Meeting the Need	<i>For the project that best identifies and meets a school or community need</i>	\$2,500
Sustainability	<i>For the project that will either be sustained long-term in the original school, or can be easily replicated in other schools and communities</i>	\$2,500

Questions?



Dinner Break



Citrus High School: Porterville Animal Shelter



Visalia Times Delta

[VIDEO](#)

Orosi High School: Cardinal Bridge Program



VTEC: Summer Garden



Visalia Times Delta

Project Coordination

- Process for choosing a theme and developing a project
- Challenge Project Planning Tool
 - Project Descriptions
 - Project Timeline

Questions?



Challenge Brainstorming

- Idea Carousel – 10 minutes
- Work groups – 15 minutes
- Share out – 20 minutes



Resources for Challenge Project Development

- *Bring Learning to Life*
(http://servicelearning.org/lsa/bring_learning/index.php)
- *Core Strategy: Project-based learning* (<http://www.edutopia.org/project-based-learning>)
- *Key Elements of Service-Learning* (<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/sl/keyelements.asp>)
- *K-12 Service Learning Standards for Quality Practice*
(<http://www.nylc.org/standards>)
- *PBL-Online: The Online Resource for Project-Based Learning* (<http://pbl-online.org/>)
- *Service-Learning: Making the Connection*
(http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered/Service-Learning/Connecting_SL_with_Other_Initiatives.pdf)