Intro:

  It is a word that everyone knows but few really understand.

Getting youth involved in service can start at home, not just through service, but by involving youth in conversations about problems that they see every day. Help to support youth's ideas, whether it's [raising money for a cause by selling their art](http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3755433) or [gathering their friends to donate toys to children who don't have any](http://kidscreen.com/2011/05/30/hasbro-honors-youth-community-service/). With a little bit of help, a child's idea can start to change the world.

**Youth leadership:**

The ability to lead others or get others to work together toward a common goal or vision. (Rutgers Cooperative Extension, 2003; US Department of Health and Human Services, 1996; National Order of the Arrow, 1992; Wing Span Youth Empowerment Services, n.d.).

More often than not, definitions of youth leadership focused on the ability to lead oneself and work with others, while not necessarily influencing others to act (ERIC Clearinghouse on Disabilities and Gifted Education, 1990; Youth Leadership Support Network, n.d.; Urban Think Tank Institute, 2002;.Karnes & Bean, 1997).

Definitions frequently characterize youth leadership as the ability to envision a goal or needed change, to take initiative or action to achieve the goal, to take responsibility for outcomes, and to work well with, relate to, and communicate effectively with others. In the review of definitions, it has become apparent that youth leadership can be defined as both an internal and external capability.

Therefore, NCWD/Youth has chosen to adopt a two-part working definition of youth leadership, as follows: youth leadership is

1. “The ability to guide or direct others on a course of action, influence the opinion and behavior of other people, and show the way by going in advance” (Wehmeyer, Agran, & Hughes, 1998);

And

1. “the ability to analyze one's own strengths and weaknesses, set personal and vocational goals, and have the self-esteem to carry them out. It includes the ability to identify community resources and use them, not only to live independently, but also to establish support networks to participate in community life and to effect positive social change

the program (Caplan, Weissberg, Grober, Sivo, Grady, & Jacoby, 1992).

NCWD/Youth also looked at research about the impact of youth leadership programming by reviewing available studies and surveys of practitioners and young people who have participated in leadership programs. Woyach and Cox (1996) surveyed 25 leading practitioners of youth leadership programs and developed a list of 12 agreed-upon principles

important for youth leadership programs (Woyach, 1996).

These principles, listed below, speak to both the outcomes and the content of leadership programs as well as to the process of leadership development.

1. Help youth learn specific knowledge and skills related to leadership.

2. Enable youth to understand the history, values, and beliefs of their society.

3. Facilitate the development of individual strengths and leadership styles.

4. Facilitate the development of ethics, values, and ethical reasoning.

5. Promote awareness, understanding, and tolerance of other people, cultures, and societies.

6. Embody high expectations of, confidence in, and respect for youth served.

7. Emphasize experiential learning and provide opportunities for genuine leadership.

8. Involve youth in service to others – to their community, their country, and their world.

9. Facilitate self-reflection and processing of learning both individually and cooperatively.

10. Involve youth in collaborative experiences, team-work, and networking with peers.

11. Involve youth in significant relationships with mentors, positive role models, and other nurturing adults.

12. Be developed around stated purposes and goals.

**Role models:**

There are two points to be made about younger leaders: firstly, that they are **necessary to a country’s growth**; and secondly that **they encourage more young leaders.**

Young people are best poised to advocate for their needs in creating and implementing policies and programs.

Young people are more receptive to change and have a large stake in creating a strong future. Youth involvement facilitates positive social change, including structures, policies and procedures

Development of the Self : youth leadership is important for them to develop the capability to develop one self.

a quote by Nelson Mandela: “The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow”

Conclusion:

If it seems impossible for you to change anything on a global scale, remember that all the revolutionaries throughout history that did so had to swim against the flow of the river to carry the world to where it is now.