HOW TO START YOUR OWN YOUTH-LED PROJECT

Before you start your project, we recommend that you go through a careful assessment of yourself and your community.

Personal Readiness

☐ Do you like working with groups?
☐ Do you like the challenge of being a leader who can encourage others to take on leadership as well?
☐ Are you able to guide groups toward compromise by identifying points of agreement?
☐ How open are you to learning as you go?
☐ Are you excited about starting something totally new?

Community Readiness

☐ Can you identify community members who care about the issue that you want to address and would welcome an opportunity to champion the cause in their community?

1. Define the Issues
   ✷ Some youth-led groups are organized to bring people together around a variety of concerns. Others begin as a response to a crisis – an outbreak of racial tensions, etc…
   ✷ Talk to other young people to find out what they think the important issues are and what should be done. At the same time, collect information about the issues.
   ✷ What’s the history of the issue or issues that you’re dealing with? Your local public library, community newspaper, and the Internet are likely to have answers.

2. Research the Community
   ✷ Find out what resources your community has – potentially friendly organizations, business and government leaders,

3. Build a Core Group
   ✷ Recruit a handful of people – three or four are enough – to help launch the organization.