

YWAT Leadership Development Philosophy

Our leadership philosophy is:

- that the foundation of leadership rests in activism, organizing and service
- that young women can and should be catalysts for social change
- that leadership is developed through daily practice
- that leadership is multi-faceted – there are different forms of leadership

To be a leader is to:

- a. Know yourself – Self-awareness is key to leadership development.
- b. Educate yourself – Understanding the world and knowing the facts.
- c. Express yourself – Developing and using your voice.
- d. Take Action – Take action today to change tomorrow.

Activities:

1. Skill-building through workshops and training that members attend
 - a. Leaders have to understand the issues that they tackle (reproductive justice training, student rights workshop by ACLU, anti-violence workshops)
2. Reflection on our practice
 - a. Quarterly (every three to four months – members review and plan) – for example, after the first phase of planning for the GLC in December 2005, members stepped back and spent time asking questions about where the planning process was and what still needed to get done. In May 2006, YWAT leaders participated in the retreat to evaluate the year's accomplishments and challenges.
3. Campaign Planning Chart is used to teach our members about organizing.
4. Education for Social Change: Reading key texts and information about issues of concern to YWAT

Concrete Skills Developed through Participation in YWAT:

- Facilitation (meetings, workshops)
- Public Speaking
- Negotiation (managing conflicts within groups)
- Fundraising
- Research
- Writing
- Critical thinking and creative thinking
- Project management and coordination
- Organizing and campaign planning