DEVELOPMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH

12 to 14 Age Group

**CHARACTERISTICS**

- Are concerned about physical development, being liked by friends.
- Desire a sense of independence, yet want and need their parent's help.
- Are self-conscious, with many needing help to get over inferiority complexes.
- Like fan clubs, with many having adult idols.
- Want to get outside of their own community to explore.
- Are getting over the age of fantasy and beginning to think of what they will do when they grow up, but are often unclear of needs and values.
- Are interested in activities involving boys and girls.
- Are interested in sports and active games.
- Are ready for in-depth, longer learning experiences.

**IMPLICATIONS FOR LEARNING EXPERIENCES**

- Encourage learning experiences related to understanding yourself and getting along with others.
- Encourage working with adults and older teens to complete learning experiences and apprenticing.
- Concentrate on developing individual skills.
- Need to have opportunity to practice leadership roles with coaching.
- Encourage working with or apprenticing to older teens and adults.
- Teen and adult leaders must be well liked to be effective, and teen leaders should be three or four years older than participants and considerably more mature (must not reject those who they are leading).
- Provide learning experiences outside of the community.
- Relate leadership life skills to career choices.
- Encourage learning experiences involving boys and girls.
- Encourage active, fun learning experiences.
- Tasks may be more difficult and of longer duration.
- Encourage deeper exploration of leadership roles; encourage more detailed recordkeeping of leadership experiences.
- Activities provide hands-on and skill centered experiences in specific subject matter.