DEVELOPMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH

15 to 19 Age Group

**CHARACTERISTICS**

- Have social needs and desires which are high.
- Want and need a strong voice in planning their own program.
- Want adult leadership roles.
- Are quite interested in coeducational activities.
- Have areas of interest which are more consistent, with patterns of interest becoming more definite.
- Often need guidance in selecting careers.
- Are developing community consciousness.
- Are beginning to think of leaving home for college, employment, marriage, etc.
- Many will leave the community for employment, and many who go to college will not return to their present community after graduation.

**IMPLICATIONS FOR LEARNING EXPERIENCES**

- Emphasize leadership life skills which also relate to social development. Youths need opportunity for self-expression.
- Allow youth to plan programs with guidance and support of adult helpers.
- Encourage working with adult role models. Emphasize guidance and counsel from adults rather than directions.
- Encourage coeducational learning experiences.
- Encourage greater in-depth study of leadership roles and life skills.
- Apply leadership life skills to career explorations, especially decision making.
- Encourage career exploration within specific subject matter.
- Encourage learning activities involving the community.
- Emphasize application of leadership life skills to being on your own.
- Stress application of leadership life skills to being on your own.
- Need experiences which expose and involve youths with the larger society.