DEVELOPMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH

9 to 11 Age Group

CHARACTERISTICS

Are quite active, with boundless energy.

Like group activity.

Like to be with members of own sex.

Have interests which often change rapidly, jumping from one thing to another.

Usually do best when work is laid out in small pieces.

Guidance from parents and adults important if youths are to attend to a task and to achieve their best performance.

Admire and imitate older boys and girls.

Are easily motivated, eager to try something new.

Do not like to keep records and do not see the value in them; need assistance and close supervision.

Like symbols and regalia.

Need recognition and praise for doing good work.

Are extremely curious.

IMPLICATIONS FOR LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Put emphasis on “hands-on” learn-by-doing activities. Keep youth busy with individual or group projects. Group free time is encouraged.

Emphasize group learning experiences.

Encourage learning experiences to be done with participants of same sex.

Encourage many brief learning experiences.

Use detailed outlines of sequential learning experiences.

Provide opportunities for parent involvement. Outline “things to do” and make assignments. Participants will probably need individual and group guidance. Suggest how parents, teachers, and other volunteers can help.

Encourage apprenticing with teen volunteers.

Provide a wide variety of learning experiences.

Keep written work simple. Review the project or activity forms with the group step-by-step. Give clear instructions and solicit the help of parents to assist their children with written work.

Make recognition available to those who earn it.

Present recognition in front of peers and parents. Let members know that they will receive rewards for completing activities.

9-11 year-olds constantly ask “why.” Do not answer all their questions. They will learn by finding some answers on their own. Encourage a few members to find answers and report back to the group.