Teen Council Empowerment Model



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Welcome and Engaging Environment:

Engagement with young people is a critical aspect of recruitment. Passive recruitment strategies are not as successful as direct recruitment, therefore, face-to-face interactions with young people must be prioritized.

1. Safety and Belonging:

All recruitment efforts should keep physical and emotional safety at the forefront. Encouraging teens to apply without applying pressure is essential. Helpful actions may include helping applicants prepare their application and hosting an application and interview prep night.

2. Fun:

Describing the Teen Council program is important but giving potential applicants a taste of what it's like to be a member is even better! Having teens participate in a fun and engaging activity or even inviting potential applicants to a Teen Council meeting are great ways to show how fun Teen Council is.

3. Connecting to the Mission:

Facilitators and current members should remain grounded in the mission of Teen Council throughout the recruitment process. Communicating the mission of the program to eligible groups will help young people assess if Teen Council may be a good fit for them.

4. Knowledge of the Circles of Sexuality:

It should be communicated that knowledge of the Circles of Sexuality is not a prerequisite or requirement to apply to the program. What is important is that potential applicants are interested in learning more about this topic.

5. Peer Education Skills:

Applicants are not expected to have any prior experience with peer education. What is important is that potential applicants are interested in providing peer education.