

Youth Involvement and Empowerment

Ardoch PD session

19 April 2021

Presented by: Lachlan Preston



Acknowledgement of Country

I acknowledge the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nations,
on whose lands I am currently based.

I acknowledge their past and current Elders and recognise
that they never ceded sovereignty of this land.

I also acknowledge the Elders of the lands that others are
joining from today and welcome any Aboriginal or Torres
Strait Islander People who may be joining us today.



Views are my own

Please note: these opinions are my own,
and are not the views of Ardoch or Scouts
Victoria as an organisation

A bit about me



- 3 years as Assistant Chief Commissioner, Youth Program (volunteer), Scouts Vic
- 5.5 years as Programs Manager at Cathy Freeman Foundation
- Currently Programs Manager, Volunteer Programs at Ardoch
- Currently volunteer Group Leader at Fitzroy (Atherton Gardens) Scout Group
- Keen mountain biker, cross-county skier, camper and hiker.

My background in Scouting



Introductions

Break-outs (rooms of 3-4 people)

- 5 mins total
- Each person to talk for 60 seconds
- Listen closely, each person has their full time

Introduce yourself and tell an experience from your childhood or youth when you felt empowered as a young person

Youth, empowered

Type your response to the below questions in chat. We'll all send at the same time:

- A very brief summary of your story
- How you felt at the time of that story?

INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE



Who are “youth”

- There is no universally agreed international definition of the youth age group
- For statistical purposes, the UN defines ‘youth’ as people aged 15-24 years old
- There is overlap with children and adults in ‘youth’
- Some may also discuss teenagers (13-19) and young adults (20-24)
- Today’s discussion can apply to all young people



Why involve young people?

Everyone grab a blank sheet of paper and your pen/texta.

- Write the answer to the question on your page, as big as you can
- When I say so, we will all show them up to our camera at the same time



Why involve young people?

- Right to participation
- Better decision-making / fresh perspectives
- More representative decision-making
- Build skills, experience & confidence of youth
- Conveys high expectations, builds aspiration
- Increased youth engagement in activities
- Builds connections between young people and adults, can address inter-generational challenges



Barriers to youth involvement?

Everyone grab a blank sheet of paper and your pen/texta.

- Write the answer to the question on your page, as big as you can
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Barriers to youth involvement?

- Existing cultural norms and beliefs
- Inappropriate methods used for youth engagement (jargon, meeting processes, time)
- Lack of training/mentoring for young people
- Young people's lack of time and/or money
- Staff turnover or lack of training
- Inequality (socio-economic disadvantage, remote, gender, cultural/religious minorities)



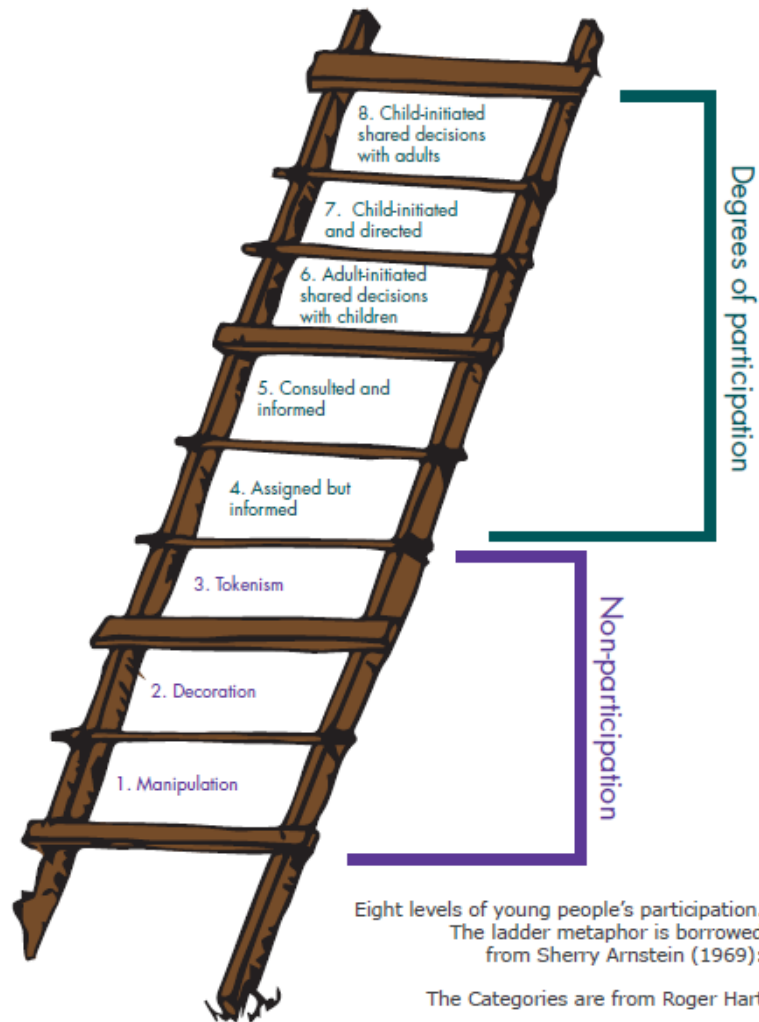
MODELS FOR UNDERSTANDING YOUTH INVOLVEMENT



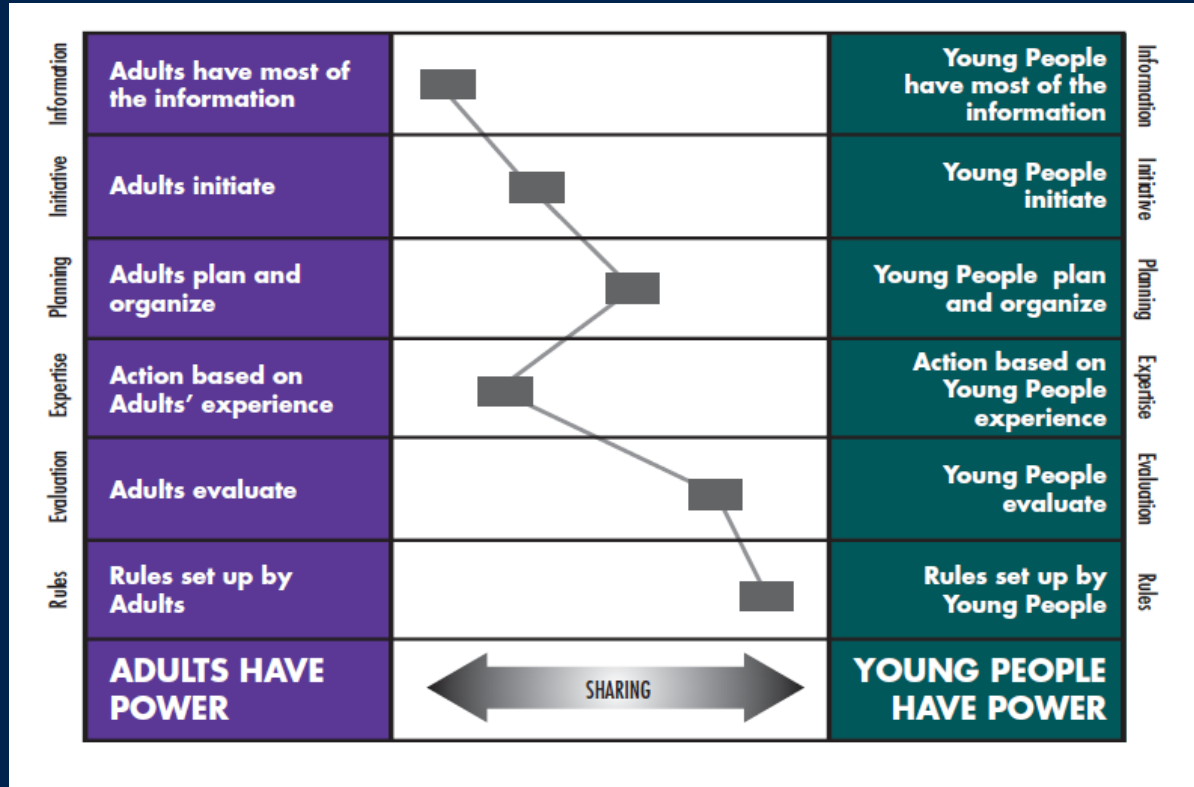
Ladder of young people's participation

By Roger Hart

Image from World Scout Youth Involvement Policy (2015)



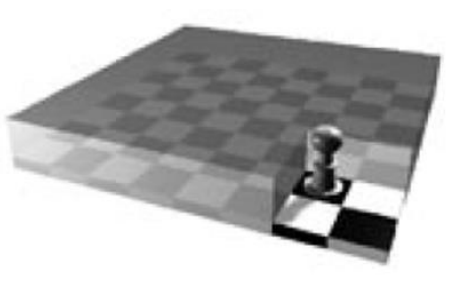


Concept of youth empowerment



By Clare Lardner

Image from World Scout Youth Involvement Policy (2015)

Through concept of play

Too restrictive	No rules/structure	Balanced
		
Over-protective	Laissez-faire	Clear structure/rules
No opportunity to move or innovate	No rules or structure to guide the play	Youth can decide how to move within rules
No play or learning	No play or learning	Play and learning

Concept and images from World Scout Youth Involvement, Youth Empowerment Toolbox (2005)

TOOLS FROM SCOUTING



Learning by Doing

This is a key part of the Scout Method



Small-team system

Called Patrols, this is the basis of the whole Scouting approach.

- Provide a social grouping
- Opportunities for leadership
- Learning to work together
- Compromise and understanding needs of others



Youth leadership

- Each Patrol has a Leader and Assistant Leader, who are chosen by their peers
- These Youth Leaders also come together with Adult Leaders to make-up the Unit Council, which makes decisions and plans the activities for the whole Group
- Other youth may also take a leadership role in a Project Patrol or a program night



Youth Leading, Adults Supporting





Plan ▶

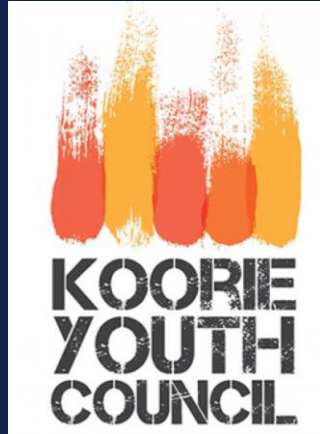
Do ▶

Review ▶



Scouts
VICTORIA

Scouts is just one example



Thinking ahead

We'll now have some time in breakout rooms again.

Discuss:

- Opportunities to promote youth involvement
- Practical things you could do differently
 - In volunteering
 - Community groups
 - Your family (or extended family)
 - Your work

INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIES



Institutional approaches

Some examples to consider

- Consulting young people on specific-topics
- Youth Advisory bodies
- Providing voting rights to young people
- Peer education (training young people to train their peers)
- Job shadowing or youth roles/deputies
- Partnerships between young people and adults (such a young person leading a project with adult support)
- Putting young people in decision-making bodies



Thank you

