

Engaging Young Volunteers

Young people living in the Loddon Shire have told us that they want to volunteer more in the future.

Young people also shared that they were more highly motivated to volunteer for learning, social connections and personal interest/fun compared to other age groups.

“In 5 years time I will be volunteering more. I will have more time to help out the community; volunteering could also help in my studies in University.”

BENEFITS OF YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

There are many benefits of engaging young volunteers for young people themselves and for organisations/groups. Some noted benefits:

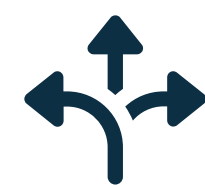
- Economic
- Boosting young people's employability
- Learning new skills and knowledge
- Communication skills
- Networks & contacts
- Increased self-confidence
- Fresh ideas, talent, enthusiasm, new perspectives and creativity
- Diverse technology and social media skills
- Social impact- civic skills, social belonging

BARRIERS TO VOLUNTEERING

Like adults, young people can experience barriers to volunteering:

- Lack of time (sport, work, study commitments)
- Assumptions and stereotypes about youth
- Lack of confidence
- Lack of awareness of opportunities
- Lack of transportation/travel distances
- Lack of income

BEING 'YOUTH READY'



Be flexible- offer many ways for young volunteers to get involved



Support mates to volunteer with mates



Tap into/match young people's motivations



Understand and utilise young people's skills and talents



Give/share ownership so young people feel genuinely involved



Build young people's capacity and leadership skills



Mentor and coach young volunteers



Promote and acknowledge the contributions of young volunteers

Volunteering increases young people's skills for employability, including the social capital, open-mindedness, international understanding and other soft skills that formal educational institutions cannot engender.

(Astin & Sax, 1998; Jones, 2011; Left Right Think-Tank, 2011; Roker & Player, 2000)