

Youth Focus Groups

Out-of-School Time

The local planning team, who believes that youth need to be involved in this process since they are the program beneficiaries, requested the focus groups. The following youth groups were requested to participate in the focus group process: Area Congregations Together, the City and County Youth Commissions, Sacramento Mutual Housing Association, Citrus Heights Youth Commission. Youth from these organizations were asked to help develop the focus group questions, participate in a facilitator's training, and to facilitate at least one focus group of youth in their community. Ten youth were trained as facilitators. The youth facilitators' ages ranged from 14 to 17 years old.

Ten focus groups were organized by the youth, with participants that represented a broad cross section of youth. Groups were held at various apartments operated by Sacramento Mutual Housing Association, Sacramento Boys and Girls Club, Probation Day Reporting Center, CK McClatchy High School, at a youth leadership retreat with youth from Del Paso Heights and Franklin Villa, and with the youth facilitators themselves.

The findings from these focus groups augmented focus group work with over 200 youth previously done by ACT. Prior to the focus groups, ACT surveyed 2000 youth in 1998, using the Search Institute's 40 developmental assets as the basis of the questions. Youth were surveyed at urban, rural and suburban high and jr. high schools, a court and community schools, a religious school, and in three congregations. The survey concluded among other things that: less than 19 percent of the youth surveys felt the community values them, 40 percent felt they are supported by at least 3 adults, 46 percent felt safe in home and neighborhood, 25 percent felt they were given useful roles in the community, 20 percent felt they had access to three or more hours of creative activities, 50 percent reported they spent at least one hour or more a week in a club, sports or organized youth activity, 23 percent felt they had positive adult role models, 50 percent participated in community service, and 19 percent spent three or more hours per week in music, art or theatre lessons. Sixty-six percent were motivated to do well in school. Twenty-five percent read for pleasure. Thirty-eight percent felt they had good planning and decision-making skills. Another 38 percent felt they would be able to resist negative peer influence, and 36 percent felt they resolved conflict non-violently.

The results of the ACT and the GRASP focus groups are summarized below.

Youth felt that positive activities when not in school were important because these activities:

- Keep them out of trouble
- Enables them to learn and experience things
- Helps them have fun and not be bored

When asked what would youth like to do when they are not in school, the youth responded:

- Field trips
- Sports – swimming/basketball
- Community service/help at home
- Make money to be able to spend on fun activities
- Hang with their friends and have fun
- Have a place, a center for teens with fun activities, social and educational, informal and structured
- Access to arts, cultural activities
- Skateboard park
- Better bikeways and parks, playgrounds
- More teen-oriented functions (dances, cultural, group activities)

When asked what they do in real life, when they are out of school they responded:

- Sleep
- Sports
- Church
- Work
- Go to the mall or parks

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- Watch TV and hang with friends
- Drugs and smoking/get into trouble
- Go to the movies
- Community service
- Specific places: gym, Boys and Girls Club, skate rink, swimming pool, Firehouse, Jimboys, bus stop

The challenges youth have in finding positive, fun and productive things to do when not in school and why they don't participate in programs that are offered:

- Money
- Transportation
- Parents
- Time constraints/too busy with other things
- Activities not available
- Fear for safety, fear of new experiences and how to act
- Not cool by friends
- Activities are boring or viewed as not important to youth
- Don't know about activities
- Public facilities are run down, don't have good equipment, not well lit at night
- Finding things to do at night and on the weekends

When asked what they liked about the programs they participate in:

- Having fun
- Meeting people – youth and adults
- Using the internet/computers
- Helping others
- Learning something

The types of relationships youth would like with adults are:

- As friend/informal
- Understanding/listen to youth and provide support
- Have fun with

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	QUESTIONS	MUTUAL ASSISTANCE NETWORK	SACRAMENTO BOYS & GIRLS CLUB	SAC. MUTUAL HOUSING ASSOC. (READING CLUB) #1	SAC. MUTUAL HOUSING ASSOC. (READING CLUB) #2	SAC. MUTUAL HOUSING ASSOC. YOUTH COUNCIL #1	SAC. MUTUAL HOUSING ASSOC. YOUTH COUNCIL #2	DAY REPORTING CENTER PROBATION	C.K. MCCLATCHY HIGH SCHOOL GROUP	YOUTH FACILITIES FOCUS GROUP
1.	Why it is important that youth have positive things to do when they are not in school?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeps them out of trouble Don't bother parents Live longer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Something to do Keeps you out of trouble For fun Meet other kids To learn social skills To help others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn stuff to be better at school To be good To be a good student To work hard Not to fear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Out of trouble Live longer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To hang out More education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn more Take up time To behave better To keep out of trouble Have fun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> So don't get bored - leading to negative stuff So they don't commit crimes Play sports Drive everywhere Have a job Sleep Play video games Have a gym Shopping Swimming Go to parties & clubs/entertainment Painting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep them out of trouble (off the streets) Gets us into college Teaches us how to be better citizens Opens us up to different ideas Just a good thing to do with spare time Meet people/help us identify with others Figure out who we are 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides positive things to do so kids don't get into trouble Kids feel neglected without something to do Get into trouble Helps youth feel empowered Meets friends and others (adults) Creates more opportunities for communication Can learn new skills - helps feel valued Less graffiti with more after school Schools would be more valued if offered more activities Media could report more positive things about youth Communication better overall - more skills, togetherness, etc.
2.	What would teens like to do when they are not in school?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports Tutoring Mentoring Community Service Career Development Field trips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food stamps Swimming pools Basketball courts More parks (Del Paso) More clubs in every area (Del Paso) Gym; Racquet Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Games Parties Prizes Sports Movies Field trips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports Tutor Mentor Field trips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give us money Buy computers and color printers Buy homes Buy everything Force them to work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell people to treat others right Create group to do things together Open a camp so people would realize 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sleep No get in trouble Hang out Clean up Go to church The CITY X-Games Club Girl's house Go out of town 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legalize marijuana Lower drinking age More activities for teens Clubs Youth Centers Less restrictions (i.e. skateboarding) Activities that don't cost as much so that teens can do them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More music/arts Game room/meeting place for youth More dance clubs in P.M. - if safe/supervised More places to meet/talk to

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teens only (13-18 years old) Free transportation Free food Teen gambling shack??? 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> there's no difference between each other (color, culture) Create a newspaper Jobs for others Teach studies at home Arts Share with others and teach others to share 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amusement parks Go to the mall Community Centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise minimum wage Teen Centers – need more; central locations; set up like living room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> adults/mentors More internships especially for younger kids Opportunities to travel to other places (across town, Great America, S.F., Other countries) Learn about other cultures: food, language, etc. Meet broad cross sections of peoples Camping opportunities – outdoor opportunities, group skills, etc.
3.	In real life- What do teens do when they are out of school?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basketball Other sports Community Service Sleep Go to work Doing presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church Sleep Hang out with friends Talk on phone Play basketball/football @ school Watch T.V. Boys and girls club Eat Go to movies Take bus to mall/shop Video games Homework Play pool Fencing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camping Trips Church Sing Read Bible Pool Listen to what is said Poems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basketball Sports Community service Meetings Sleep Work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports Shopping Homework/study Play Hang out with girls Go to church T.V. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go to the lake Play volleyball Getting into trouble Look for jobs Looking to get in trouble Drugs; Smoking Camp Movies Boys ranch Jack stuff from store 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Try to find something to do and not actually do things Movies Mall Drive around Bowling/golfing Everything requires money (big problem) Sports Boy Scouts Food/coffee Community service/volunteering Work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk on the phone Video games Being outdoors Get high Drinking Sports Hang out with friends 	
4.	What are teens favorite places or programs - close to their home - to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Firehouse/Boys & Girls Club Work Bus stop Jimboys Practice at school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Backyards A clean atmosphere Friends Houses Skating rink 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family's house Computers Ocean Games Store 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Firehouse Jimboys Bus stop Practice School Mall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Casino Bars Restaurants Parks Mall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field trips Mountains Lakes Gymnastics, Arcade, computer lab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friends' houses Coffee shops Out of town (out of Sacramento) At the beach (reading) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skateboard park Hangout place Nap room Party place 	

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	go to when not in school?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> school Gym Mall Friend's house Gardens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skate park Gym Mall Movies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park Girl power 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boys and Girls Club Friends 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lab Being at home to be safe Swimming pool Take naps Waterworld Great America Basketball, ice skating Talent shows 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme Parks Arden, Downtown, Old Sac Ice Skating Parks/playgrounds Rivers 	
5.	What are the challenges for you and other youth in finding Positive, fun and productive things to do when not in school?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Reasons Too many rules Different ideas Limited resources Transportation Planned time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age Money Peer Pressure (not cool) Parents Location Transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No rides No money Get in trouble Parents Scared 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance Not enough Transportation No planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too much homework In school too long Parents Job money 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't drive Not doing chores Someone beating you up Too much homework Summer school Money 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation – access Positive things – finding Constructive activities: sports, teen talk, celebrities, changing habits Getting along with teens from other communities Not feeling comfortable/n ot knowing how to express themselves Being uncomfortable with others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too much work (home work) Stress Transportation Money Getting a job (a good one) that pays enough Internships/availability of jobs that prepare you for future Adults don't respect teens Parents Standardized tests (SAT 9) 	
6.	What do you like about the programs you participate in?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associating with people with age Meet new people Have fun Adults working together and accomplishing Keeps us busy Fun classes/life skills Tutored little kids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smart moves People Pool tables All sports Basketball Baseball Volleyball Soccer Nike swoosh for younger kids Place to do homework To hang out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning math skills Read better Writing Get better grades Playing games 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer associated(?) Have fun Meet people Adults & youth work together Keeps busy Life skills Tutor younger kids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graphics on computer Typing Internet Working with other teens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flips; taking chances Having fun & learning more Activities Computer lab – switching programs Swimming field trips; feed animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cool Challenges you Fun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership activities Debate Things that require brain power Sports 	

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> with friends Keystone leadership program Community service Leadership skills Movies Help make snacks/full kitchen Internet 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get incentives, coupons, etc. Teacher, singing 			
7.	Why don't youth participate in certain programs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programs are boring Adults be trippin'/attitude Not enough freedom for teens Teens creativity doesn't catch attention Programs not interesting Teens feel its not important Guys are embarrassed 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can't come Don't want to Work Distractions Don't know the rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boring Adults "trip" Not enough freedom Not interesting for teens Teens don't feel important Embarrassed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tired physically Boring No transportation Not enough space in computer lab Busy Babysitting younger siblings No money 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lazy; rather fight than have fun Don't know about programs Think they have better things to do than doing something in community They only like to play around and not do work They think its boring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What's being offered is not liked Transportation Youth are influenced by the wrong things 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not cool sometimes Lazy Lack of encouragement from parents and others Too shy Not enough time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No availability (transportation) Cost Parents' rules – need supervision! Be a leader Meet new people Changing the community Express interest
8.	What types of relationships would you like to have with adults during out-of-school hours?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None Friend Understanding relationship Informal Nice and understanding relationship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good Someone to talk with about school and relationships Mentors/ counselors Friendly 18-22 years of age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help Teach Play with us Have activities Show and learn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None As friends rather than adults Understanding relatives like grandma Respectful Informal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conversations with adults Give advice Pay attention to me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults to not be mean Adults to be nice, manners and happy Be in meetings Be close to – buddy To understand when you talk To be patient when I talk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult's act like they're better than us Some adults do value kids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More respect Mentors More professional Treated equally Okay to have some authority but realize that we aren't little children; capable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hanging out – talking Sharing issues with adults Help Mentor Learning life skills Being on the same level Good role model Have same interests Someone to tell secrets to Someone you can trust Someone who respects views

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										and doesn't judge
9.	Describe how the programs you attend involve youth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garden controlled by youth Operation graduation/ Youth mentors Allows youth to make choices Student council working with administration Mainly youth 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend the class Listening Answer questions Bring friends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garden Program – youth do most of work Operation Graduation-students mentor other students Students make choices Prepare rally & communicate with administration All programs are ran by youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create graphics on computer Make decisions Help plan activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help plan programs Do what you're told Write articles and type Explain tasks and how to do it Able to share opinions Helper Talk with people Share your ideas Write poems & songs 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give us the opportunities to make our decisions Gives us skills for life Inspire us Sense of accomplishments Power is limited – false democracy Lack of appreciation 	