



What to Evaluate

It is important to identify what to evaluate before you develop your plan. Below are some possible outcomes you may want to evaluate:

- The impact of service on the youth participants' learning
- The impact of specific service efforts on the community
- The quality and effectiveness of related partnerships
- The quality of the service experience
- The impact of youth involvement on the agency and/or school
- The extent and reach of the program
- Young people's perception of the agency and its work and how their involvement in service at the agency has affected them
- Structure of your program
- Participants' attitudes

Whom to Involve in Your Evaluation

You may want to engage the following people in your evaluation:

- Planning committee members
- Service providers
- Agency staff and/or board
- Youth volunteer supervisors
- Parents
- Service recipients
- Teachers
- Program coordinators

Evaluation Methods

There are many different methods you can use to collect the information you need to evaluate your program. Below are just a few:

- Individual interviews with youth, clients, parents, staff, etc.
- Group discussions (focus groups, discussions in advisory committee meetings dialogue nights)
- Record review (volunteer assignment reports, youth journals, attendance records, school progress)
- Pre- and post-experience surveys of participants and others
Observation and documentation of insights from those involved in your project/program (teachers, youth agency staff, parents, etc.)
- Analysis of existing data

Originally published by the Points of Light Foundation. Revised by HandsOn Network in 2010.