



## ADULT OBSERVATIONS OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION

### Overall things to look for:

Youth relationships with one another  
Adult influence  
Youth leadership development  
Engagement in program  
Positive outcomes of program

### Observation Guidelines

#### *Program*

1. Do the youth mention and discuss career explorations? Do they talk about the garden consultants exploration as being relevant to their future career?
2. Have the youth participated in children's gardens/gardening? Do they talk about these experiences?
3. Are the youth taking the experiences seriously? Are they jotting down notes? Paying attention?
4. Is there a sense of nervousness, pride, excitement about the presentation to the panel?
5. How are the youth reacting to program activities? Are they smiling during field trips, looking bored, etc?
6. Are the youth clear about what their role as a consultant is? About what they are expected to do and present?
7. Do the youth seem worried or express concerns over not having enough time to prepare for the presentation?
8. Do they seem to have enough information to do their power point?
9. Do the activities seem to be helpful?

#### *Relationships*

1. How are the youths interacting with one another? What has been the progress of their interaction from the beginning of the program (when they didn't really know one another) to the end of the program?
2. When and how do the adults interact with the youth?
3. What do the youths talk about when adults are not in listening range?
4. How are the youth interacting with career explorations program staff?

#### *Engagement/Leadership*

1. Are there leaders in the group? When do they start initiating leadership and how do they do so?
2. How do the adult chaperones facilitate/hinder youth initiative/youth voice?
3. Are the adults able to step back from the youth? Do they help guide youth or simply take over/tell them what to do?
4. Are the youth striving to be creative for their presentation? How are they trying to characterize their presentation?
5. Are the youth speaking to the program leaders about their ideas, suggestions for the program? Are they asking questions? How do adults respond to these ideas, suggestions, and questions? Are these ideas incorporated?

**Observations for the Presentation**

1. Are the youth speaking for equal amounts of time? Do some seem nervous (are their voices quivering)?
2. What is the quality of the power point? Do they present good arguments to support their recommendations and suggestions?
3. Are the adults in the audience attentive? Do they seem interested and engaged?
4. Did members of the audience raise any questions? How did the youth field these questions?
5. Do the adults in the audience seem to be taking the youth seriously?