



Recommended Roles for Youth Ambassadors

Youth and young adults with lived experience of homelessness and housing instability are an integral part of planning and implementing a successful Youth Count. Some programs refer to youth involved in planning and board activities as Youth Advocates or Youth Leaders. For the purposes of Youth REACH, youth who help plan and implement the count are referred to as Youth Ambassadors.

What do youth ambassadors do and why are they so important?

Youth input is what makes Youth REACH successful and separates it from other counts.

Unaccompanied homeless youth are a “hidden population” who can be hard to locate, and the best way to design a survey and count to learn more about their experiences and needs is to ask for their help. There are many ways youth and young adults can get involved in planning a youth count.

Youth and young adults are key to a successful Youth Count. They can help by:

- Participating in identification of places youth are likely to be
- Mapping routes for survey administration
- Developing scripts to use when approaching youth
- Administering surveys
- Developing marketing materials and strategies
- Assisting in magnet event planning
- Selecting survey participation incentives
- Acting as ambassadors for the project
- Promoting the count in their communities
- Surveying other youth during the count
- And many more – just ask a Youth Ambassador what they would like to do!