
Project TITAN

Trained Involved Teens Assisting Nonprofits

Debbie Wilde 945-9300 dwilde@youthzone.com

Project TITAN works with teens that want to engage in their community through real-world experiences and with nonprofits that want to bring different perspectives and diversity to their board.

The purpose of this program is to link teen volunteers with non-profit or public organizations by giving teens an opportunity to serve as a board member for these community organizations. The student will be matched with an organization that has a mission statement compatible with his or her interests. Organizations will be asked to designate an adult board member or executive staff to serve as a mentor for the teen. The mentor will answer questions that the teen may have and help make the teen's time on the board productive for both the teen and the organization.

In order to make this experience as beneficial as possible, the teen board members should be **voting** members of the board. Teens and the other board members should have an equal say in the activities and decisions of the board. Teens will attend the YouthZone TITAN board training. The YouthZone TITAN Project Steering Committee and YouthZone staff will be available for support as needed.

Benefits of Project TITAN for Teens:

- Teen can serve as role models for their peers
- Involving teen supports them in gaining a wide range of skills and developing confidence in their opinions and ideas
- Early teen participation supports long-term growth of social responsibility and involvement
- Teens will learn problem solving and decision-making skills
- By serving as board members, teen will learn about philanthropy and community well-being

Benefits of Project TITAN for Boards:

- Teen provide diversity to the board
- Teen will energize the group and bring a new dynamic to board meetings
- Teen can challenge conventional thinking
- Involving teen reflects the democratic value of letting all people voice their thoughts and opinions
- Teen can influence their parents and other adults
- Teens will capture the attention of decision makers and grant givers
- Teen are uniquely qualified to say what works for young people and can provide a fresh outlook