



*Underpinning
Knowledge for*

Youth Outreach Programs



a team training resource
informed by sixty years of
practice



Discover how to:

- Run a program based on biblical values
- Effectively express God's love to teenagers
- Welcome young people into mission
- Strengthen your team unity
- + much more!



A resource from
Shift Youth + Community

shift
→ **youth +
community**

ENDORSEMENTS FOR THIS RESOURCE

"There is a great depth of practical wisdom and experience in this resource that challenges, develops and enables ministry with young people through youth outreach programs. If you and your team want to make a difference to young people in your community... and to journey with them in faith, mission and community involvement, this is a wise guide to how you might undertake that journey."

Ian Macdonald, Diocesan Youth Adviser, Diocese of Oxford

"For many, many years now [SYC] has been at the cutting edge of running dynamic, missional, impacting youth cafés around the world. This resource is a welcome training manual which lays foundational principles and provides practical steps needed to serve young people through loving, caring, Christ-centred community. Get ready to be equipped and empowered to impact young lives!"

Colin and Melissa Piper, Global Youth Movement, World Evangelical Alliance

"Informal café environments have real potential to create spaces for life giving youth ministry to be ignited. The main contribution of this new resource is to call us back to the importance of building a culture anchored in core values lived out by those who shape the vision and serve the young people. Additionally, the knowledge, practical tips and good questions presented will add value to those committed to engaging in their community in order that they would see redemption's story unfold around them."

Jim Brown, Director, Exodus Europe

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This resource came from the need to make Shift Youth + Community's training for Youth Café teams available online, beyond our team's capacity to deliver it. What has evolved is a resource that will encourage, challenge and equip any youth outreach program team.

What do we mean by youth outreach program? We mean any program or initiative seeking to serve young people and love them on God's behalf.

We hope this resource, in its printed form, will go on to equip and encourage many different youth teams around the world.

When first considering what needed to be included in this resource, we decided that the following three aspects would need to be covered; The Mission of Youth Cafés (or youth outreach programs), Working Effectively with Young People and Team Life. An effective Youth Outreach Program team is one that knows their mission and how to work well together so that they might effectively serve the young people of their community.

There are a number of different resources that provide excellent information about what sort of activities to run for young people and the physical resources needed to do so. This resource is about providing the underpinning knowledge that will help your team explore the choices you make and the approaches you take to your youth work, in order to make the most of the opportunities you have.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This resource is the product of a number of individuals' hard work. Within it they share knowledge, skill and awareness gleaned over many years of youth work experience and training. Much of the content is a contextualised expanding on content from Fusion International (which SYC are a member of) 'Foundations for Life and Mission Course'. Many thanks to Dan Evenhuis, who recognised the need and chose to respond creatively by kick-starting this project. To our writers; Jo Ireson, Edwina Baily, Dot Knox, Lauren Fakehinde, Jesse O'Neil, Leizsha Clissold, Claire Bankole and Anika Parker; thank you all for your contributions! Thanks to Shift Youth + Community and Biz Adams for your photographic contributions. Also, big thanks must be given to Jennifer Newton and Jenny Woods for proof reading assistance and encouragement! There are many more individuals, too numerous to mention, who prayed for us over the almost five years it has taken to produce this resource. I'm profoundly grateful for you all.

Finally, I hope that all who use this resource will be blessed and challenged by it, for the sake of the young people you serve and to the glory of our great and wonderful King, Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,

Skye Leon

Underpinning Knowledge: Youth Outreach Programs Editor and Writer

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

It is highly recommended that you and your core team (or designated leadership) come together to read, review and discuss as much of the material as you can before taking it to your wider team. This way you can together plan your own delivery pathway through the units, influenced by the individual needs of your particular program and team.

Why is it important to review the material before taking it to the wider team?

Your team and program will have its own set of needs, as well as its own culture. What one program needs to focus on to begin with will be different to the needs of another program. Together you can discern what is right to focus on and when. Also, if your core team is familiar with the material and has already begun to integrate some of what you have reviewed together, then you will be more comfortable and prepared to help others as they engage with the material too

HOW YOU COULD DELIVER THE TRAINING

SUGGESTED METHOD 1:

1. Pray together
2. Read through a Unit (either together or individually depending on ability of team)
3. Large group discussion – What's the main thing you'll take away from this unit and how will this apply to your program in the future? How will this influence the way you as an individual work at the program?

Some teams will have no problem with engaging in a large group discussion after reading through the unit. However, if some of your team members will find it difficult, then here are some more suggestions that may help to care for everyone on your team:

SUGGESTED METHOD 2:

1. Pray
2. Three Main Points
3. Large group discussion – What's the main thing you'll take away from this unit and how will this apply to your program in the future? How will this influence the way you as an individual work at the program?

Try picking out the top three points you think are most relevant and plan how you will communicate those three points to your wider team. This requires the training team/discussion leader to know the unit well enough themselves. You can pick excerpts from the unit and frame them with examples from

your own program, in order to help your team, see the material from within your local context.

SUGGESTED METHOD 3:

1. Pray
2. Read through Unit
3. Workshop (Discussion based)

Some of the units have workshop questions to help you know how to discuss particular points in such a way that quickly translates into steps for implementation.

SUGGESTED METHOD 4:

Combine any of the methods to suit your needs!

Variety is important and helps things to stay fresh and enjoyable. Experiment with what works best for your team and make sure to allow fun and laughter to enter the picture too!

FOLLOWING UP/REVIEWING

We estimate these methods will take a good half an hour, which could be part of a weekly training evening, or your briefing process before a cafe session. It will be important to have time during your program session debriefs to reflect on how this material helped your team to see or do things differently. You may find a unit point team members weren't sure about during discussion time will become clearer when they actually see it happening during a shift. It's good to have an opportunity to point moments like this out and celebrate when team members are able to integrate the material into their practice!

