

20 TOP IDEAS FOR RUNNING A YOUTH WEEK EVENT IN YOUR AREA

1. Start with talking to young people in your local area about what sort of activities they want to do in Youth Week.
2. Talk to young people from your local Youth Advisory Committee about organising Youth Week activities. If your area doesn't have a Committee - start one!
3. To find out more about consulting young people or creating a Youth Council/Committee check out www.youth.nsw.gov.au/youth_workers/youth_participation. The website provides links to a bunch of great resources which provide practical advice about how to involve young people in activities, events and decision-making about issues that affect their lives.
4. Liaise with your Local Council on organising Youth Week events and activities. Find out details of your Local Council at www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/dlg_home.asp.
5. Don't forget that Youth Week isn't just about youth events; it's also about young people raising issues of concern and asking the wider community to not only listen, but to acknowledge and celebrate the positive contributions made by young peoples' efforts and achievements!
6. Network with Indent and keep up to date with the all latest happenings in the all-ages scene. Indent provides resources, information, workshops, funding, skills development and networking opportunities in the world of music and music management. Visit www.indent.net.au.
7. Check out Arrive Alive to WIN prizes. Visit www.arrivealive.com.au.
8. Enter YouthRock, the state -wide band competition. Visit www.youthrock.com.au.
9. Visit the youthbeyondblue.com to find out ways to raise awareness about young people and mental health; such as running a forum. Check out this guide: www.sfnsw.org.au/hwh/young.htm.
10. Check out the NSW Youth Action and Policy Association. It's the peak community group working in the interests of young people and youth services in NSW. YAPA strives to achieve social justice for young people, including the appropriate provision of services for young people. Visit www.yapa.org.au.
11. Apply to the NSW Government Boards and Committee Register to have your say! The NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, maintains a register of people who are interested in being appointed to Government Boards and Committees. Check it out at

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/communities/boards_and_committees.

12. Young people involved in organising Youth Week activities are generally volunteering their time. Volunteering reaches into virtually every corner of our society from emergency services to social welfare to sport to environmental protection and the arts. Find out more about volunteering at <http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/communities/volunteering>.
13. Get involved in your School Student Representative Council or your University/TAFE Student Organisation and encourage young people to organise Youth Week activities through School or your University/TAFE campus.
14. Each year Local Councils can nominate their local Youth Week program for Local Government Youth Week Awards. It can be helpful to talk to groups of young people in other areas, who have successfully organised and participated in past Youth Week activities.
15. Use varied promotional strategies to get the word out about your local Youth Week events. Contact your local paper or local radio station; make your own posters; notify the Youth Centre, Community Centre, Education facilities; develop a community newsletter; or develop a My Space site. Word of mouth works wonders too!
16. Contact local community organisations or local businesses for their support for your Youth Week events or activities. They may be able to supply you with in-kind product giveaways, sponsorship or may be able to assist in promoting your activity.
17. The Internet is also a great tool, for both promoting your events (Local Council website, Youth Week in NSW website, My Space, Facebook) and actually running your events (Online Forum/Debate).
18. Check out www.youth.nsw.gov.au it's the NSW Government website for young people. It has heaps of resources, a calendar of events and opportunities for young people, and you can subscribe to be notified of opportunities to voice your opinion on youth issues.
19. Check out the Youth Week in NSW website for heaps of Youth Week project suggestions. Visit www.youthweek.nsw.gov.au. The National Slogan for 2009 is "Make a Move".
20. Get involved in the National Talent Competitions listed on the National Youth Week website at www.youthweek.com.au.