



Strategies for Developing and Sustaining Quality Youth-Adult Partnerships in Prevention

Lorraine Gonzalez

Claudia Baltazar

Deb Pint





“When young people are challenged and engaged-when they are told that their opinion and input is important, meaningful, and actually wanted-they desire to become more involved.”

Julia, age 15

New Roles for Young People



Youth as facilitators

Youth as researchers

Youth as planners

Youth as organizers

Youth as decision makers

Youth as advocates

Youth as evaluators

Youth as policy makers

Youth as change agents

Philosophy and Practice

- New Perspective and Key Prevention Strategy
- What Youth Want “In their own words”
 - Safe Spaces
 - Supportive Relationships
 - Opportunities to Belong
 - Meaningful Engagement
 - Real-World Connections
 - Community Involvement
 - Youth Voice
 - Inclusion and Integration of family, school, and community



What are the Benefits for Youth?



- Better understanding of the “culture of work”
 - Experience positive interaction with adults
 - Feel valued in their community
- Gain skills in working collaboratively for the greater good of the community

And more...



- Beginning to see their own potential as limitless
 - Feeling enhanced power and autonomy
 - Greater appreciation of other cultures
- Improved leadership and life skills to become a successful adults

Adults Benefit by:

- Feeling a stronger connection with the youth in their program
- Gaining an expanded resource base in addressing community issues
- Feeling a renewed energy for the work



Organizations benefit by:

- Becoming more focused on the true needs of the youth they serve
- Have programs that are more relevant for youth
- Widening their impact as noted by increased participation
- Increased acceptance of prevention messages
- Growing potential new leaders



Society Benefits from:

- The development of new leaders who feel ownership of their society
- A new pool of highly capable adult volunteers who want to serve the community
- Youth who are more likely to be civically engaged and more likely to vote



Barriers to Youth Engagement

Organizational Barriers

- Negative attitudes and stereotypes about youth
- Lack of trust between adults and youth
- Lack of resources allocated for the work
- Long meetings, use of jargon, acronyms, technical or academic language



Barriers Youth Face

- Transportation
- Competing priorities including social, school, and work
- Feeling inhibited by adults
- Feeling tokenized



Youth *and* Adults Working in Partnership

Youth-adult partnerships....
are youth & adults working
together in a positive, mutually
respectful environment with
the recognition that each
group contributes unique
strengths to the relationship.
The end result would not have
been possible without collabora-
tion from the two unique groups.

Successful youth adult partnerships,
like any type of partnership or
relationship aren't created overnight!



How Do We Get There?

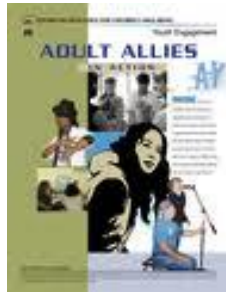
- Make a cultural shift in organizational practice
- Be intentional....
 - Recruitment
 - Language
 - Establishing training
 - Supporting clear communication
- Be an ally





What do Adult Allies Do?

- Give and receive feedback
- Cultivate a culture of fairness and opportunity
- Ensure safety for all youth
- Navigate expected and unexpected challenges with youth/adult relationships
- Provide experience and expertise to contribute to the collective partnership
- Facilitate meaningful opportunities for youth participation



Suggestions for Adult Allies

- Treat young people as partners rather than as clients
- Relate to young people in the context of their strengths and talents
- Communicate respect both verbally and non-verbally
- Be sincere and genuine in your approach
- Be empowering-give them a chance to tell you their ideas for the future

Be Aware of “Adultism”

- ✓ Stereotyping Youth
- ✓ Failing to ask youths’ opinions
- ✓ Failing to support youth development
- ✓ Underestimating youth solely based on their age
- ✓ Not valuing youth as resources
- ✓ Failing to listen to youth
- ✓ Not giving youth responsibility

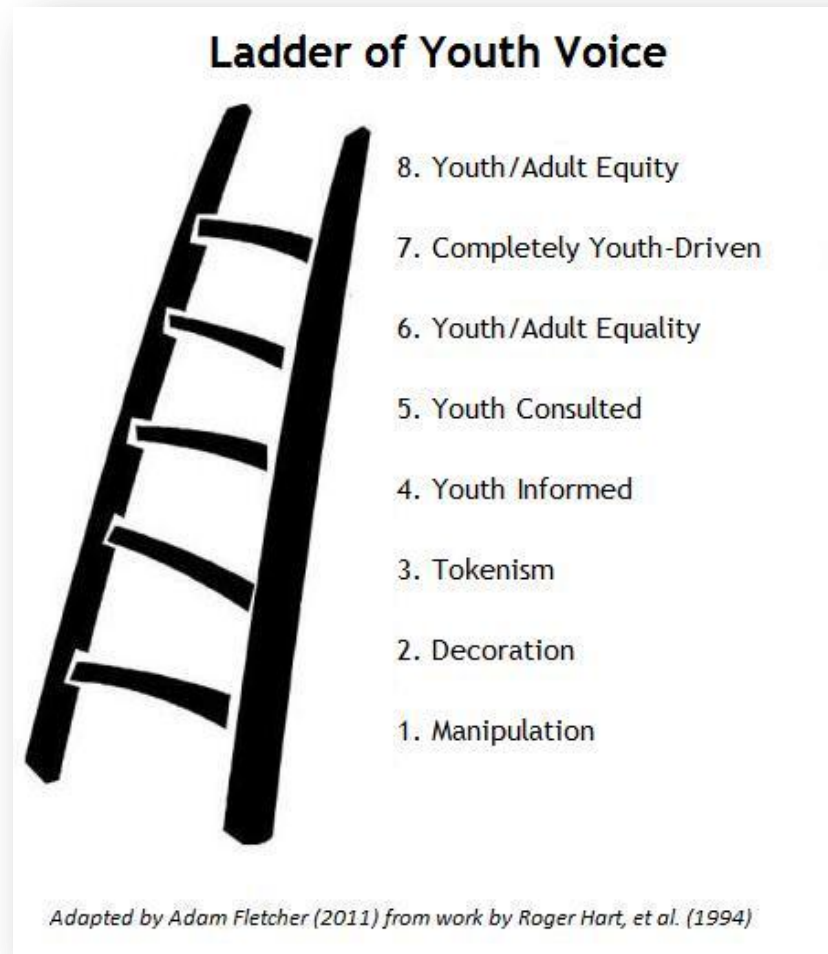


What can be done to combat adultism?



- Hold high expectations for both youth and adults
- Communicate honestly
- View and respect youth and adults in the same manner with equal status
- Youth and adults should actively participate in the planning, development, and execution of all projects

Hart's Ladder of Participation



Make a Difference!



References: FreeChild.org; Advocates for Youth; REACH-Connecting Communities and Youth; Centres for Excellence for Children's Well-Being; Youth Planning Program-City of Portland; Youth Leadership Institute; YouthNet.org

**SANTEE
SOLUTIONS
COALITION**

Santee Solutions Coalition

Lorraine Gonzalez



STAAND

YDI 2010



STAAND

YDI 2010



STAAND

YDI 2010



STAAND

YDI 2010



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Santee Town Hall Forum 2010



STAAND

Safe N Sober 2010



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**Students Together
Against Alcohol 'n Drugs**

STAAND

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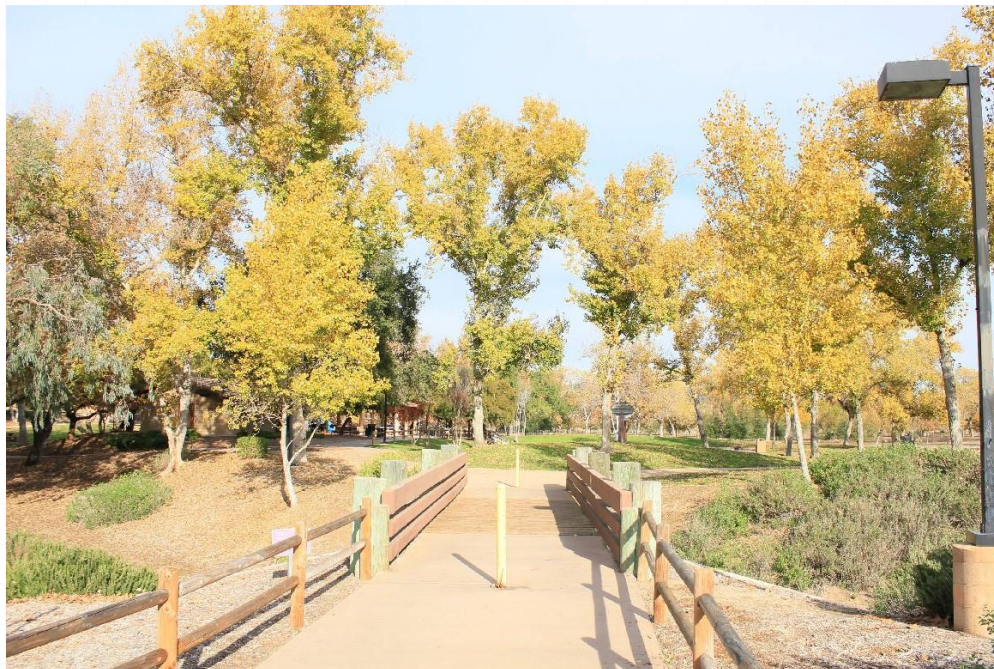
Santee, California

Population: 53,413



Santee, California

- Population: 53,413
- High Schools: Santana & West Hills



SY4S

Santee Youth 4 Solutions



SY4S

Logo



SY4S

Meetings



SY4S

Red Ribbon Week





2011 Santee High School Football Season Schedule



2011

Santana Sultans

Day	Date	Time	Opponent
Friday	Aug. 28	7pm	@ Madison High School
Friday	Sep. 2	7pm	Vs. Santana High School
Friday	Sep. 9	7pm	Vs. La Jolla High School
Friday	Sep. 23	7pm	Vs. Kearney High School
Friday	Oct. 7	7pm	@ El Capitan HS
Friday	Oct. 14	7pm	@ Helix High School
Friday	Oct. 21	7pm	Vs. Granite Hills HS
Friday	Oct. 28	7pm	@ Steel Canyon HS
Friday	Nov. 4	7pm	@ Valhalla High School
Friday	Nov. 11	7pm	Vs. Grossmont HS

West Hills Wolf Pack

Day	Date	Time	Opponent
Friday	Aug. 28	7pm	Vs. Granite Hills HS
Friday	Sep. 2	7pm	@ West Hills High School
Friday	Sep. 9	7pm	Vs. Kearney High School
Friday	Sep. 16	7pm	Vs. Imperial High School
Friday	Sep. 23	7pm	Vs. Central HS-El Centro
Friday	Sep. 30	7pm	@ San Ysidro HS
Friday	Oct. 14	7pm	Vs. El Cajon Valley HS
Friday	Oct. 21	7pm	@ El Capitan HS
Friday	Oct. 28	7pm	Vs. Mount Miguel HS
Friday	Nov. 4	7pm	@ Monte Vista HS

SY4S

Social Host Ordinance

CELEBRATE SAFELY WITHOUT ALCOHOL AND DRUGS:

The City of Santee Social Host Ordinance prohibits anyone hosting a party where youth are present and alcohol or drugs are allowed. Violations can result in \$1,000 fine and up to a year in jail.

Santee Municipal Code Section 9.72.030

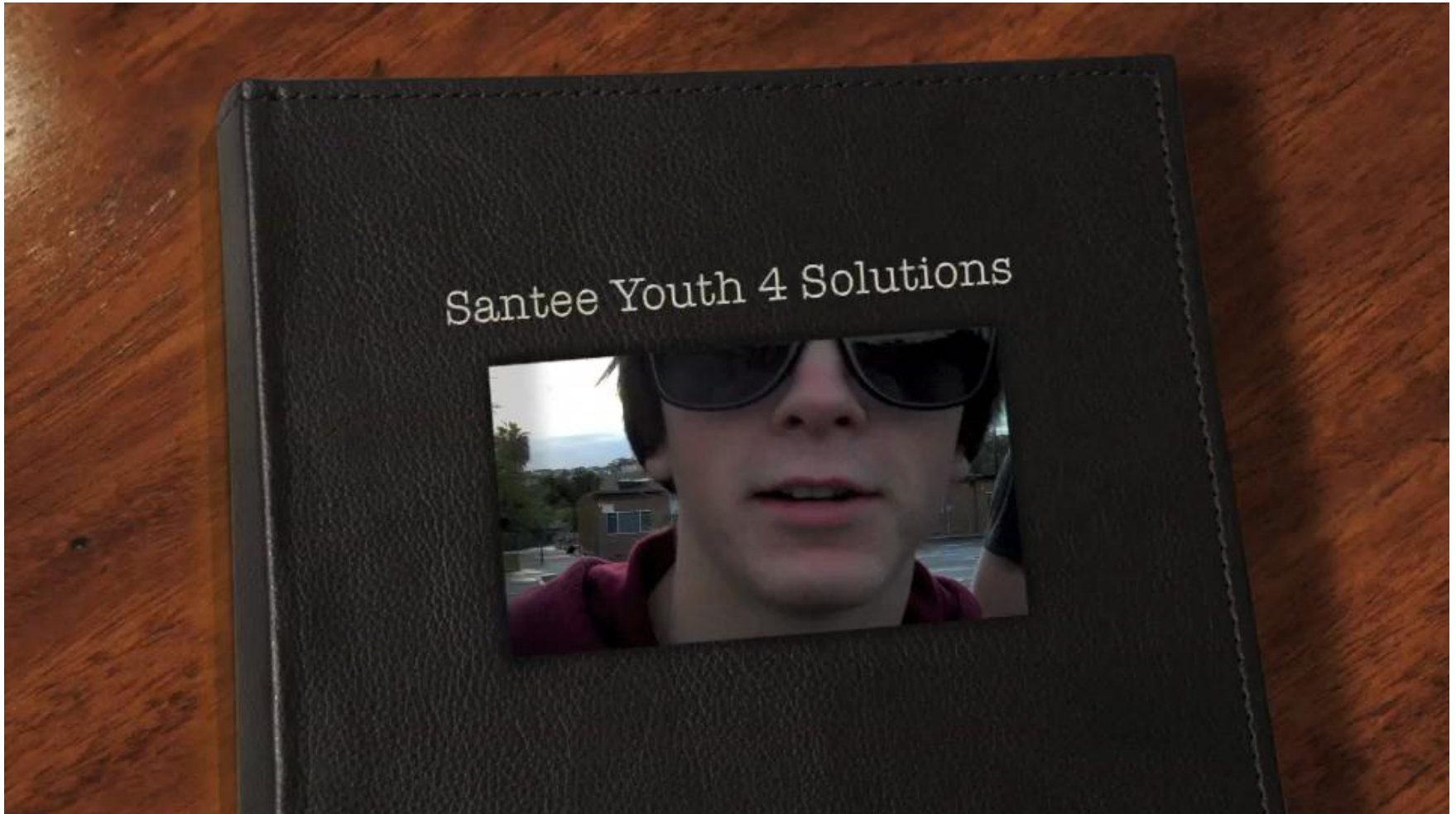
Santee Solutions Coalitions is a community group dedicated to reducing alcohol and drug use in Santee.
619-328-5787 Find us on [f](#) /Santee Solutions Coalition

**SANTEE
SOLUTIONS
COALITION**



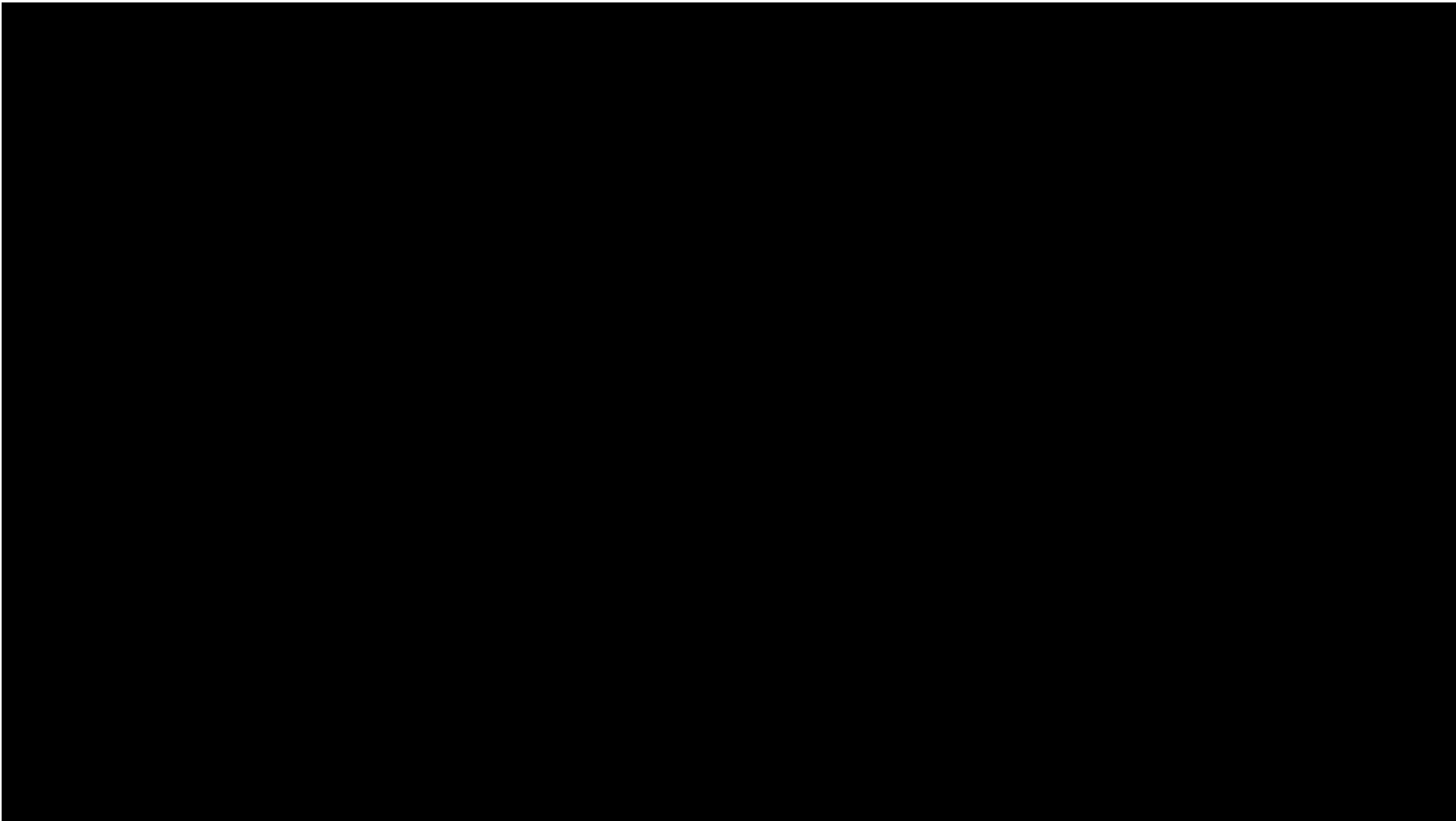
SY4S

Their point of view



SY4S Video

End of the year



Social Media

How it Helps

Thank you!

Deborah Pint, Project Specialist II
San Diego County Office of Education
619-718-4992
DPint@sdcoe.net

Claudia Baltazar, Prevention Specialist
SAY San Diego
619.283.9624
cbaltazar@saysandiego.org

Lorraine Gonzalez, Youth Coordinator
Santee Solutions Coalition
(619) 442-2727 x.105
LorraineGonzalez@Santeesolutions.org