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# How to Improve Your Leadership Skills Through Youth Volunteer Work

Volunteering with young people can be a wonderful way to give back to your community and do something fulfilling with your free time. You can also leverage your work with adolescents to improve your leadership skills, which will serve you well in your personal and professional lives. Here are some resources to help you make the most of your volunteerism.

## **Look for Ways to Get Involved**

*Recognize the benefits of volunteering with adolescents and use these resources to find a fitting gig.*

- Get motivated by educating yourself about the benefits of volunteering, [like connecting with others and](#) leading a more fulfilled life.
- [Use online databases](#) to find organizations requiring volunteers in your area.
- Local schools can also be a wonderful way to [help young people](#).
- Stay on top of current events using resources like [FBA Daily News](#) to pinpoint possible volunteer opportunities—for example, in the wake of a natural disaster.

## **Take Proactive Steps to Enhance Your Leadership Skills**

*Try these hacks for boosting your leadership abilities.*

- [Follow best practices for](#) enhancing leadership skills, starting with identifying your strengths and weaknesses.
- Good communication is an essential part of good leadership. [Check out resources to finetune your](#) speaking skills, like Toastmasters and TED Talks.
- Active listening is another important component of what makes a good leader. Practice active listening skills like [paraphrasing and asking questions](#).
- Formal training, like an online bachelor's degree in education, can be another way to improve the way you work with adolescents. [This is a good direction](#) to go in if you want to eventually go from a volunteer to working with teens.

## **Find Ways to Put Your Skills Into Practice**

*Try these steps to exercise your newfound leadership abilities.*

- Find opportunities to put your skills to the test by [taking on new projects and empowering others](#).
- Lead by example [and encourage others in your](#) community to volunteer with adolescents.
- You can also encourage the adolescents you volunteer with to volunteer themselves. Here are some ideas, like Habitat for Humanity [and the American Red Cross](#).
- You can also practice your leadership skills at work, for example, [by demonstrating decisiveness](#) and embracing innovation.

Volunteering with young people benefits both them and you. By following the above best practices, you can use this opportunity to finetune your leadership skills and give back to your community.