

## Youth Program Quality Assessment Tool

The Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA) tool was created by the David P. Weikert Center for Youth Program Quality to help programs understand the key ingredients needed to create a positive learning environment for the young people involved. To provide a quality environment for youth each level of the pyramid should be met, with each level building on the level below it. To demonstrate how this applies to an internship program we've included suggestions on how you could meet the standards for an intern this summer. Not all categories will be met based on the uniqueness of each intern's work responsibilities.

**Plan:** Interns plan projects and determine how to accomplish tasks.

**Choice:** Interns make process choices about their work (roles, tools, presentation plan).

**Reflect:** Supervisors engage interns in reflection regularly throughout the internship.

**Lead:** Interns given the opportunity to facilitate an activity or a meeting.

**Collaborate:** Interns are given the opportunity to work with others toward a shared goal.

**Adult Partners:** Supervisors provide explanation for expectations or direction given to interns.

**Belonging:** Interns and supervisors participate in team building activities throughout the internship.

**Warm Welcome:** Interns are greeted and welcomed daily as they arrive.

**Re-framing Conflict:** Conflict is calmly met and interns involved in deciding the resolution.

**Skill Building:** Supervisors break complex tasks into simple, specific steps.

**Encouragement:** Supervisors ask open-ended questions inviting interns to share their opinions.

**Session Flow:** Interns have ample work, clear instructions, and adequate resources.

**Active Engagement:** Projects include a balance of concrete and abstract learning.

**Emergency Preparedness:** Interns know the plan in case of an emergency.

**Nourishment:** Interns have a space to store food and access to water.

**Accommodating Environment:** Interns have a designated workspace.

**Healthy Environment:** Workspace is clean and free of hazards.

**Emotional Safety:** Bias free, positive environment, mutual respect.

