

Junior youth animators, usually older teens or young adults, work with 11 to 14 year olds in Junior Youth groups to mentor their spiritual and intellectual development and to help them to realize their potential to improve their own lives and the lives of others.

They facilitate study groups and help youth to develop and carry out service projects that demonstrate how they can make a difference in the world.



“The betterment of the world can be accomplished through pure and goodly deeds, through commendable and seemly conduct.” —Bahá'u'lláh



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Junior Youth Animators



Are you a youth with a desire to serve your community? Become a junior youth animator and work with youth aged 11-14 to help them realize their spiritual and moral capabilities.





What is the Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program? Its aim is to help junior youth to take responsibility for their own spiritual and intellectual development, to develop a strong sense of purpose, and to contribute towards bettering their community.

JUNIOR YOUTH - Junior Youth refers to a special group, ranging in age from 11 to 14, with special needs as they are somewhat between **childhood** and **youth** when many changes are occurring within them.

SPIRITUAL - Spiritual refers to the universal moral concepts common to all faiths and traditions that exist in the world today, such as truthfulness, unity, justice, cooperation, service to humanity, striving for excellence, and relying on God for guidance and assistance..

EMPOWERMENT - Empowerment means to assist young people to take ownership of their personal development and to build capacity for meaningful social action in their communities.

JUNIOR YOUTH SPIRITUAL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

“The period of youth is characterized by strength and vigor and stands out as the choicest time in human life. [It should be distinguished by] sanctity and detachment, loftiness of purpose, magnanimity, spiritual qualities....”



WE CALL FACILITATORS OF JUNIOR YOUTH GROUPS 'ANIMATORS' BECAUSE THEIR ROLE IS TO BRING JOY AND LIFE INTO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP. AN ANIMATOR SERVES AS A TRUE FRIEND AND WISE ADVISOR TO THE JUNIOR YOUTH, AND IS CAREFUL TO NOT ACT IN A PATERNALISTIC WAY. ANIMATORS MUST RELATE TO THE JUNIOR YOUTH NOT AS CHILDREN, BUT AS YOUNG PEOPLE WITH CAPACITY AND A GROWING ABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO BUILDING A NEW SOCIETY.-



THE GROUP MUST FOSTER CONDITIONS THAT INSPIRE SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY, WHILE MAKING SURE THAT AN ATTITUDE OF SELF-CENTEREDNESS IS NOT EVOKED. THEIR INTERACTIONS WITH THE PARENTS OF THE JUNIOR YOUTH MUST NURTURE A COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT AND ATTEMPT TO EXTEND THE POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT OF THE GROUP INTO THE HOME AND COMMUNITY.

THE EFFECT OF THE PROGRAM ON THE ANIMATORS HAS BEEN EQUALLY SIGNIFICANT. MANY FIND THAT THE CONCEPTS AND CONVERSATIONS THEY HOLD WITH THE JUNIOR YOUTH INSPIRE THEM TO LEAD A MORE INTEGRATED AND JOYFUL LIFE. ANIMATORS FIND THAT AS THEY GROW IN THEIR OWN ABILITY TO REFLECT NOBLE QUALITIES AND LIVE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE, HONESTY, AND LOVE, THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THEIR SERVICE INCREASES.

**THE JUNIOR YOUTH SPIRITUAL
EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM**

