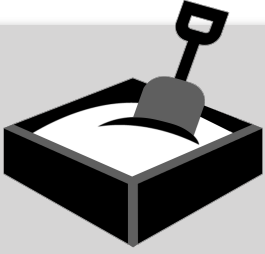


Sandbox

Helping youth lead within appropriate boundaries



YOUTH NEED THE FREEDOM TO LEAD, BUT THEY ALSO NEED THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF BOUNDARIES. MUCH LIKE A SAND, CONVERSATIONS AND COUNCILS WILL QUICKLY STRAY WITHOUT FIRM BORDERS. AS ADULT LEADERS, WE MUST ESTABLISH FIRM BOUNDARIES AND THEN STEP BACK AND LET THE YOUTH "PLAY".

**SET THE BOX
AT THE BEGINNING OF
MEETINGS WHERE YOUTH
WILL BE LEADING, SET
CLEAR BOUNDARIES ABOUT
WHAT IS AND WHAT IS NOT
POSSIBLE/APPROPRIATE.**



**BACK IN THE BOX
DURING MEETING, TAKE
OPPORTUNITIES TO REMIND
YOUTH OF THESE BOUNDARIES
WHEN THEY START TO STRAY
OUTSIDE OF WHAT IS
POSSIBLE/APPROPRIATE.**

NECESSARY BOUNDARIES

There needs to be different boundaries for different activities, but some are always needed:

PURPOSE

What is the purpose we are trying to accomplish? Does this WHAT fit our WHY?

SAFETY

Is there danger of someone getting hurt physically or emotionally?

LOGIC

How much will this cost?
How long will this take?
How far away is it?

SET THE BOX

- “Before you start planning, can we be super clear about WHY we are doing this activity?”
- “Let’s take a minute to clarify our purpose for this.”
- “As you council together, please remember our responsibility to keep people safe physically and emotionally.”
- “Can we get on the same page about a few details before we begin?”
- “You have budgeted X dollars for this activity. Keep that in mind as you plan.”

BACK IN THE BOX

- “This sounds really fun, but don’t forget WHY we are doing this activity...”
- “Will this help us accomplish the purpose that we set out at the beginning?”
- “Sounds incredible! How could we make sure to keep people safe?”
- “Can someone look up how much that will cost so we can stay within budget?”
- “Is that going to be possible within the time frame that we have?”



In the beginning, adults need to set the box and help youth get back in the box. But with more experience, youth can and should be expected to learn to do this on their own.