

# National Youth Participation Study

## Instructions for Youth-Serving Programs Staff Administration of On-line Survey

We are asking youth-serving organizations program staff to encourage middle and high school youth to take part in a study of youth participation in structured activities during the out-of-school hours. Specifically, this study focuses on youth participation in organized activities such as band, debate team, school sports, community sports, community choral society, 4-H club, and others. It asks youth:

- how they made their decisions to join certain activities,
- why they chose not join an activity,
- why they decided to quit an activity,
- what they do in those activities, and,
- what they get from being involved in those activities.

The study is being conducted by researchers at Penn State University and the University of Arizona. The on-line survey should take approximately 20 minutes to complete. We appreciate your help recruiting youth participants.

For more information about the study you can go to

<http://agexted.cas.psu.edu/fcs/dp/survey/participation/survey.cfm> and click on the button that says “Youth-Serving Organizational Staff.” If you have questions, please contact:

1. Daniel Perkins, Penn State University, Email: [dfp102@psu.edu](mailto:dfp102@psu.edu), telephone (814) 865-6988,
2. Lynne M. Borden, University of Arizona, Email: [bordenl@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:bordenl@ag.arizona.edu), telephone: 520-621-1063, or
3. Stephen Russell, University of Arizona, Email: [strussel@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:strussel@ag.arizona.edu), telephone: 520-621-1231

We strongly encourage the participation of traditionally under-represented or underserved young people, such as African-American, Asian American, Latino/a, or Native American youth. This will enable the investigation to examine youth participation with populations that are traditionally underserved and ignored.

These instructions outline the research protocol to be used by our colleagues that agree to help us by recruiting youth participants for the study. Adherence to the guidelines of the protocol is important for data validity as well as for compliance with the granting Institutional Review Board. The Pennsylvania State University (PSU) Office of Research Protections has approved this protocol (IRB# 16724). In order to guarantee youth participants’ rights the on-line data will be routed into a secure password protected file only accessible by Dr. Perkins.

### **1. Appropriate age**

The appropriate age for participants is ages 12-18, but it is likely that some youth under age 12 will complete the survey. However, surveys completed by children younger than age 12 will be purged (this is required by the PSU’s Office of Research Protections).

## 2. Parental Letter.

There is concern that some young people might feel obligated to participate if everyone in their group is also participating. To mitigate this possibility, if you plan to encourage youth in your program to complete the survey as a group activity, it is required that parents be notified of that activity and that youth know that it is their choice to participate. You are required to send home the informational letter to the parents from the researcher (see PDF file labeled *Parental Letter*). No parental signature is required. Only after a two-week waiting period can the potential participants be given the on-line survey address. The first screen the potential participants will see is an assent page. The youth must read the description of the study and agree to participate in the survey by clicking "I agree." If the youth does not want to complete the survey, the participant simply clicks "I do not agree," and they are sent to the National 4-H website.

## 3. Site Registration

We ask that a contact person from sites where group participation takes place complete the site registration form (see attachment labeled *Site registration form*). Send a copy of the completed form to Daniel Perkins at Penn State University (Email: [dfp102@psu.edu](mailto:dfp102@psu.edu), Telephone: (814) 865-6988.

4. For more information about the study or if you have any questions please contact:
  - a. Daniel Perkins, Penn State University, Email: [dfp102@psu.edu](mailto:dfp102@psu.edu), telephone (814) 865-6988,
  - b. Lynne M. Borden, University of Arizona, Email: [bordenl@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:bordenl@ag.arizona.edu), telephone: 520-621-1063, or
  - c. Stephen Russell, University of Arizona, Email: [strussel@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:strussel@ag.arizona.edu), telephone: 520-621-1231.

**National Youth Participation Study**  
**Site Registration Form**

---

---

**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Department:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location where youth  
will participate:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Name of group:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**Data Collection Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Please return completed form to Daniel Perkins at:**

**Email:**        [dfp102@psu.edu](mailto:dfp102@psu.edu)

**Fax:**            (814) 863-4753

**Telephone:**   (814) 865-6988