

# **AHS Guidelines for Clubs and Individuals to Interest Youth in Daylilies**

A fact: Youth members love most of all to hybridize and enter their daylilies in shows.

1. Assign a mentor to your youth members. Mom or dad may be involved in daylilies, but asking another club person to be a mentor would reinforce the daylily connection.
2. Clubs could invite a youth group (4-H, Scout etc.) to participate in a club function. One club invited a Brownies Troop to help at the annual plant sale. It was a positive experience for both. The members loved the young children. In turn the children had a good time. They learned about daylilies and each received a cultivar. The leftover plants from the sale were given to the troop to plant at their meeting place. The girls also earned a plant badge for their effort.
3. A club could pay the AHS membership dues for a youth interested in daylilies. The cost is only \$8.
4. Clubs could sponsor a youth to a Regional Meeting or to the AHS National Convention by covering the youth registration fee.
5. In order to encourage youth members to attend Regional Meetings and AHS Conventions, sponsoring clubs could offer reduced fees.
6. At Regional Meetings and AHS National Conventions, have all the youth members ride a bus together. Encourage youth members to serve as bus captains. At the banquet have a table(s) reserved just for them and their parents if space permits.
7. If a club can, subsidize or offer free of charge, trips, meals etc. to the youth members when they attend the club's functions.
8. Depending on the number of youths attending your meeting, special activities just for them can be initiated. The activity would depend on the age of the youths.
9. During plant sales and auctions, the youths make excellent spotters and runners.
10. Ask a youth to write for your newsletter. A youth member could be assigned a garden for the Regional Meeting report, or he could write about a local garden visit. See that a youth in your region is made Junior Editor of the regional newsletter.
10. Include articles and pictures about the youth members in your local club newsletter and the regional newsletter.
11. Have an auction only for the youths. Give them daylily dollars. Solicit good plants (plants of value) beforehand from your club members.

12. Encourage the youths to take Garden Judge Workshops and Exhibition Judge Clinics and cover the fees.
13. Encourage youth members to participate in an AHS show. Show them how to groom their daylilies.
14. Visit the youth members' gardens. They, too, are proud to grow daylilies and share their gardens.
15. Look around your community. If your club can afford it, establish a scholarship(s) for youths involved in horticulture.
16. Buy an AHS membership for a school offering a horticulture program.
17. Contact and work with your region Youth Liaison in devising projects for the youths at regional meetings.
18. Clubs and individuals can make contributions to the AHS Youth General Fund. This fund is used to give scholarships to AHS Youth members. Instructions for applying for the AHS Bertie Ferris Youth Scholarship are on the AHS Web Page under Youth Page, in the Winter issue of *The Daylily Journal*, and in the Fall/Winter issue of *Youth News*, the AHS publication for youth members.
19. If youth members visit your garden, give them a daylily to take home.
20. Contribute to the Christine Erin Stamile Youth Fund. It provides one AHS Life Membership to a youth. See guidelines on how to apply in the *Judging Daylily Handbook*, Section A: Chapter A1-Personal Awards (A1-3), the Winter issue of *The Daylily Journal*, and in the Fall/Winter issue of *Youth News*.
21. Make up special goody bags for youth members who attend regional meetings. Include a disposable camera, candies, a pen and pad, a key chain, visor, etc.
22. Share your daylily journals, your catalogues, your regional newsletter, and other pertinent material with a youth.
23. Help a youth "build" a daylily bed, hybridize, gather seeds, grow seedlings, etc.
24. Take the youth with you on visits to daylily gardens.
25. Be creative. Science projects, for example, are a great way to introduce youth to daylilies.
26. Remember to capture all those wonderful images of youth participation.

27. Contact the AHS Youth Chair and the Editor to disseminate information on the national level. Names of all AHS officers, staff, and special chairs can be found in all issues of *The Daylily Journal*.

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