

Engaging Youth in Leadership



Overview

This episode of the Successful Surf Club Series focuses on how surf clubs can encourage and support young members to step into leadership roles, including committee positions at both club and state levels.

1 Why Involve Youth in Committees?

- Youth provide **authentic, current perspectives** on challenges they directly face.
- Engaging young members ensures **better future planning** and smoother leadership transitions.
- **Youth-driven ideas** are more relevant and realistic than second hand interpretations by older members.
- Combines the wisdom of older leaders with the drive and fresh thinking of younger volunteers.

2 Challenges for Young Leaders

- **Imposter syndrome** - feeling underqualified or not good enough.
- **Time commitment** – balancing volunteering with studies, work, and life.
- Unique problems within SLSQ require **creative, tailored solutions**, not off-the-shelf ideas.

3 Support Strategies

- **Mentorship is key:** Support from experienced members boosts confidence and capability.
- **Staff support:** Youth in committees can lean on SLSQ staff for guidance.
- **Skill-building opportunities:** Informal sessions and development programs help build leadership and admin skills.
- **Development Camps:** E.g., Lifesaving Development Program, Leadership Excellence Program, and many more.

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Benefits of Youth Committee Involvement

- Exposure to **statewide initiatives and diverse club cultures**.
- Opportunities to attend **conferences and formal events** (e.g., QLD Volunteering Conference, PDB Century Dinner).
- Networking with professionals across industries – from paramedics to banana farmers.
- Personal growth and confidence from contributing to meaningful change.

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Advice for Young Members

- **You don't need specific skills** to join a committee – SLSQ will help you build them.
- Committee diversity (in age, background, and skills) makes for stronger outcomes.
- Consider **joining a state-level committee first** – more support, broader experience, easier pathway to club-level leadership.
- Reach out to current members or SLSQ's membership team for support and guidance.

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