



Are you a youth worker?

Shawna Meyer-Niederman, M.S., CYC-P

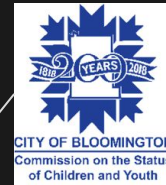
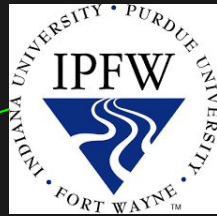
Everyday
Hero

This session is focused on helping you find your role as a youth worker, connecting with other area youth workers, and learning about opportunities to expand your career while advancing the field of youth work.



HOW DO YOU DEFINE “YOUTH WORKER”?

- *As a youth worker, you'll guide and support young people in their personal, social and educational development to help them reach their full potential in society.*
- *A Youth Worker is a person that works with young people to engage them in informal education. Youth workers can work in many contexts.*
- *The job of a youth worker is to help empower young people to make positive decisions in their own lives to ensure that they have a bright and productive future*





WHAT IS YOUR YOUTH WORK JOURNEY?

It's important to validate and recognize the experience and education that you've received as part of your youth work journey.

Take a minute to write down, draw, or visualize your youth work journey.

Then at your table, share your story in one minute or less.

Don't have a long journey? No problem, we all started somewhere.

Now can you identify and define YOUTH WORK?

Do you see the connection between what you do and the
field of youth work?



Hi, my name is _____

and **I am a youth worker.**

I currently serve youth at/by

What I love most about what I do is



PROFESSIONAL CONNECTIONS

GROUP CHAT:

- Why is it important to CONNECT with other youth workers?
- What can we gain from other youth workers?



Youth + YOU = Youth Work

VIDEO

Start thinking about the importance of the CONNECTION between YOUTH and YOUTH WORKER...

SPOILER: You can't do youth work without youth

Quotes to Think About

“To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world.”
-*Dr. Seuss*

“Do your part.” Liz Murray, *From Homeless to Harvard*

“The greatest gift you can give someone is your time, because when you give your time you are giving a portion of your life that you will never get back.” -*Thomas Edison*

“In my world there are no bad kids, just impressionable, conflicted young people wrestling with emotions & impulses, trying to communicate their feelings & needs the only way they know how.” -*Janet Lansbury*



What is the CONNECTION?

- As a youth worker you play a **vital** role in providing children access to safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments so that they are more likely to thrive; and thriving children are more likely to grow into thriving adults.

FIND A NEW TABLE, then answer:

There is an important connection between YOUTH and YOUTH WORKER, what is it?



What jobs do you know have hiring or employment requirements?

Example: Doctor

Teacher

Psychologist

Plumber

Electrician

Lawyer

Vet.

Licensed Social Worker

Engineer

Train Engineer

Bus Driver

Police Officer Firefighter

Librarian



What requirements do you need to be a youth worker?

...pass a background check?

Note: There is no universal background check.



IS YOUTH WORK THAT IMPORTANT?

- Assuming an 8 hour school day with a 180 school day year, Indiana youth spend about **1,440 hours in school** each year.
- Calculating a 4 hour after-school program, 5 days a week and full day summer programming, the average time children spend in out-of-school programming can be estimated at approximately **1,220 hours a year**.

With all of this time in out-of-school programming, the field of youth work should be highly valued and well led with knowledgeable, skilled, and trained individuals.

WHY AND HOW DO WE ENSURE QUALIFIED YOUTH WORKERS?

Together as youth workers, why must we advance together not only for ourselves and the field, but for our youth?





WHAT IS NEXT FOR YOU?

Seek professional development for yourself **and** your team. There are many options in Indiana including conferences, Youth Worker Cafes, online trainings, webinars, and local experts.

Discuss and clearly set standards for your organization as it relates to employee competency. Provide training and information as necessary.

[Youth Work Advancement Opportunities in Indiana- link](#)

[Global Youth Work Video](#)

Child & Youth Care Certification

www.inyouthwork.org - #inyouthwork

- **WHAT:** The CYC is an internationally recognized certification for youth work practitioners.
- **WHY:** Quality & Professionalism of our field; Framework for Professional Development.
- **WHO:** Three levels of certification recognize new, intermediate, and experienced practitioners in all sectors of youth work.
- **HOW:** Application and exam through the CYC Certification Board. CYC for Indiana: www.inyouthwork.org

Child & Youth Care Certification

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Benefits of Certification for Profession and Self

The best benefit is for youth & families connecting to competent practitioners

- Sets a standard for our field
- Provides a common baseline of competence
- Certified workers are 2.7 times more likely to be high performers
- Increased motivation, sense of accomplishment
- Increased awareness & mindfulness
- Increased recognition
- Framework for continued professional development



SUMMARY

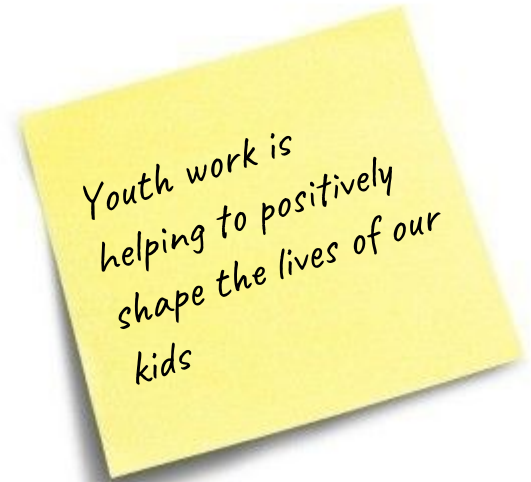
IMPORTANT CONNECTIONS:

- Identifying your role as a youth worker.
- Professional colleagues as connections and mentors.
- Relationship between youth and the youth worker.
- Validate the youth work field
- Qualifications to be a youth worker.
- Professional development and educational advancement for youth workers.
- Ideas for next steps.

One last thing...

Take one, or more, post-it notes and answer one, or more, of the questions below. Add them to the wall outside so that others can see and answer for themselves.

1. I am a youth worker because...
2. Youth work is ...
3. Youth workers are important because...





**THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO FOR OUR
YOUTH, YOU CHANGE LIVES**

Shawna Meyer-Niederman

M.S., CYC-P

SRMniederman@gmail.com

Spread the word, say it loud and proud

#iAMaYOUTHWORKER