

Engaging adolescents in a meaningful way is a skill that can be learned. It is grounded in the principles of understanding the developmental needs of youth, the assets they have, appreciating how their brains are developing, and recognizing the importance that peers and caring adults have in their lives. Through research and other information tools and techniques, this workshop will walk participants through these principles. Then, through small group discussion and practical application processes, special consideration will be given to applying these principles within the unique characteristics that living life in rural Ontario can bring.

This workshop is intended for all those who work with youth and/or are interested in engaging youth such as, economic development staff, parks and recreation staff, elected officials and/or advisory committee members to:

- Discover the keys to engaging and retaining youth in rural communities
- Learn more about teen development and how teens make decisions
- Create a stronger youth voice and presence in local decision making processes
- Connect with others who are interested in supporting positive youth development
- Understand the unique role of adults in supporting effective youth engagement

Presenter:

Lacey Smith, Recreation Programmer & Youth Action Council Facilitator, Township of Wilmot

Lacey Smith is the Recreation Programmer for the Township of Wilmot, overseeing everything from program delivery, to day camp, to facilitating the Youth Action Council. She is also active with youth as a member of the Youth Engagement Project advisory committee, and as the leader of her community's Youth Friendly Community application.

Lacey is passionate about working with youth and helping them to develop as strong leaders. Throughout her own youth she was given ample opportunities to learn and grow as both a person and a leader, and she feels it is now her time to give back.

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Made possible by the Ontario Trillium	The deadline to register is April 4, 2018
Foundation Ontario Trillium Foundation	PLAY WORKS Partnership for Active and Engaged Youth
An agency of the Government of Ontario Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario	For information on Connecting with Youth - The Rural Way, please contact: pro@prontario.org • 416-426-7142 www.prontario.org