



Cornerstone Youth Assessment Guidelines

Options for Administration:

The Youth Assessment tool is to be completed in one of the following ways:

- By individual youth and program staff in discussion together.
- By youth, individually or in a group.

If youth and staff complete the tool together, the tool will help:

1. To assess if and how youth's asset levels increase over time while they are participating in your program.
2. As a guideline for discussion between staff and youth to assess youth based on their strengths.
3. As a guideline for discussion between staff and youth to:
 - a.) Support youth to identify the assets that are important as positive strengths in their lives and to identify the assets that they most want to focus on building.
 - b.) Support youth to set goals for building specific assets through participation in program as well as through other activities and relationships.
 - c.) Guide staff in supporting youth to achieve the goals they set for themselves.

If youth complete the tool on their own, the tool will help:

- 1.) To assess if and how youth's asset levels increase over time while they are participating in your program.
- 2.) To provide staff with understanding of the assets that are already strong supports for youth and the assets that youth need help in building stronger in their lives.
- 3.) To guide staff to intentionally build assets through programs and to connect youth with other asset-building programs, resources and individuals.

For best result administering the tool:

1. Choose the sections of the assessment that are most important to you and that will make it a manageable length for your programs and youth participants. Questions about specific assets are organized into 5 sections related to the following domains: Family; Community/Neighborhood; School; Peers & use of Time; Values, Social Competency & Identity.
2. Please note, some questions are repeated in several domain sections because those assets relate to multiple domains, e.g. asset #20 time at home is covered in School question #14 and Time question #4. Some assets are measured by multiple questions in multiple domain sections, e.g. asset #8 – youth as resources, is addressed by Family question #4, Community question #4, and school question #4. See attached chart of assets and related questions.
3. Administer the pre-assessment once the youth has had some time to become comfortable in the program so that they feel free to express themselves honestly, especially if youth complete the assessment through discussion with staff.
4. Administer the post-assessment near the end of the program.
5. Administer the pre- and post-assessments in the same settings, around the same time of day, etc. to minimize variations due to situational factors.
6. Give youth enough time (approximately 3-5 minutes/domain section) in a supportive setting so that they feel comfortable completing the assessment honestly.
7. If youth complete the assessment on their own, read the questions aloud, as you judge appropriate, to help youth understand the questions and feel comfortable to ask for clarification if needed.
8. Encourage youth to choose the one answer that best fits their feelings and experience related to each question.
9. If you want to assess the overall experience of youth in your program, complete the assessment with as many youth as possible. Compiling pre-/post-assessment results for a greater percentage of youth participants will provide you with more complete information.
10. For use as a pre-/post-assessment, this tool is intended for programs that last at least several hours per week over several months.
11. The language, formatting and approach of this tool are designed to be appropriate for youth 10 years and older.
12. Use the attached tally sheet to compile the responses and calculate the percentages for your program results.
13. Attach your own cover sheet to gather demographic information and to establish a system for matching pre- and post-assessment results.



Cornerstone Program Survey Guidelines

Use this tool to:

- Learn if and how youth experience asset-building through participation in your program.
- Show your program's success in creating an asset-rich environment for youth.
- Gather youth input to guide your efforts in improving and enhancing your program to more intentionally and effectively build assets in youth.

For best results:

- Please note, survey questions are not tied to specific assets but are relate to general asset categories. See the attached list of asset categories and related questions.
- Have as many youth as possible in your program complete this survey. A greater percentage of youth participants taking the survey will provide you with more complete information.
- Use the tool in programs that last at least several hours per week over several months or at least one intensive week (e.g. camp).
- Have youth complete the form near the end of the program.
- Encourage youth to be honest. Let them know that their surveys are anonymous, and their input will help to improve the program for them and other youth.
- Give youth enough time (approximately 5-10 minutes) in a supportive setting so that they feel comfortable completing the survey.
- The language, formatting and approach of this tool are designed to be appropriate for youth 10 years and older.
- Use the attached tally sheet to compile the responses and calculate the percentages for your program results.