How to run a **SU(ESSFUL YOUTH HUBB**

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Introduction

Young people are being exposed to all the stress that comes with modern life, leading to them seeking comfort, solace and identity elsewhere. They don't have a place where they can express themselves, be safe, grow, or have people around them that they can trust.

We believe that every community can be that space for young people. As the saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child. We want to engage 20 communities by the end of the year. Our goal is to impact 800 young people every single week.

Our experts train youth workers on how to do so in an effective manner. We coach local leaders to reach every corner of their community, leaving no young person behind.

Through our training, youth workers will get access to our 'Youth Engagement Framework' and an expert that will coach them on how to identify, engage and build a rapport with every young person they work with.





Safeguarding Values For Your Young People

Be young person-centric - their interest always comes first Treat everyone with dignity and respect Be professional, act with integrity, be honest, open and carry yourself with humility and humbleness Be committed to your role and be motivated to achieve the best outcomes for young people Be committed to your team and the young people you serve and give at least four-weeks notice if you can no longer commit





How To Run An Effective Youth Engagement Session

Aim: to create a weekly session with a chilled out environment where young people can come, relax and enjoy free food and engaging activities with thought-provoking discussions.

The focus of the event is not a place to preach, give a lecture, khutbah, bayan or run a workshop. The focus of this event is about consistent rapport building through honest discussion and experiential learning.

SETTING UP YOUR TEAM



There are four main teams you need to establish in order to run an effective weekly youth engagement session. Every member of the team should see themselves as 'hosts' who are there to serve young people, just like you would if you had guests over to your home.

- **1. Youth Hubb Leadership Team** Nominate an overall leader who will be the ultimate decision-maker. All of the hosts should know who to go to for a decision. The leader, however, does not need to be present at the activities. This team should include key people who have decision making authority.
- **2. Youth Engagement Team** Responsible for rapport building with young people, having fun and updating the attendees' profiles to track their progress.
- **3. Logistics Team** Responsible for arranging anything required for the youth engagement session, including setting up and packing down, food, refreshments, and other resources.
- **4. Marketing Team** Responsible for marketing the weekly youth engagement sessions. They will manage online registration and check-in via Eventbrite, take videos and photographs, send email reminders and newsletters and collect online feedback and testimonials.

Templates and further training for these teams are in the appendix and online training.





With the following 7 simple elements, you're guaranteed to have a smooth, safe and engaging event.







The 7 Essential Elements Explained

We'll be breaking down the 7 essential elements of a great event here in more detail with easy to follow checklists and advice.



1. Be Consistent

- Don't focus on the number of attendees, as this is not a reflection of a good session
- Always run events that are announced or advertised
- Should you need to cancel a face to face event, move the session online
- Even if just one person attends, continue the event



2. Online Registration

- Use free services like Eventbrite or Google forms to capture information for test and trace purposes. Capture their Name, Mobile Number, Post Code, Emergency contact.
- Make sure all attendees complete a medical questionnaire











3. Build the Programme around Salah times

- Announce the weekly activities after Maghrib salah every day of the week
- The start and end times of the activities should be around salah times
- After salah, give a 2-minute practical reminder: here is an example:
 - Ask the attendees if they know the reward for reciting Ayaat Al-Kursi after salah, After they give their answers, remind yourself and the attendees about the Hadith.



4. Free Food and Refreshments

- Every event should have free food
- Lunch/Dinner like pizza, wings, chips, burgers etc
- Water, soft drinks, juices
- Snacks like crisps, chocolates, sweets



5. Fun, Engaging Activities

- Sports activities, Cooking activities, Chess/Board Games, Quizzes, Debates
- Good WiFi
- TV Screens/Monitors
- Extension Leads
- A minimum of three of the following gaming activities:
 - > Console Gaming
 - PS4/PS5, Nintendo Switch, Xbox etc.
 - PC Gaming
 - Mobile Gaming
 - Board Games





6. Have Thought-Provoking Discussions

- Discussions around:
 - > Current affairs
 - > Improving relationship with parents
 - > Biggest struggles at school/college/university.
 - Friendship Circles
 - Life aspirations



7. Space for 1:1 Sessions

- Youth who attend should be reminded about 1:1 sessions and where they are available
- During 1:1 sessions, confidentiality must be maintained but be mindful of safeguarding guidance
- Hosts who are parents should comply with all code of conduct

Example Running Order

15 mins	- Start Event
90 - 120 mins	- Activities + Private 1:1 sessions
20 mins	- Salah + 2 min Practical Reminder
30 mins	- Lunch/Dinner
30 mins	- Thought-Provoking Discussion
15mins	- Conclusion/End Event

Total Event Time: 3 hours







Introducing: Youth Hubb

This is our dedicated branding for your weekly youth engagement sessions. We did all the hard work so you don't have to!





How to Advertise Your Event



Getting the word out is easier than you think. Start with your immediate social structure and work outwards from there!

community. By having this relationship, getting buy-in is simpler than you think!

Now is the time to build a strong relationship with the people in your

Our recommendation is 20 attendees per event. What this means is that you will have to prioritise who you invite. You want to avoid too many people registering and not attending. After you fill 20 spaces for that session, have a waiting list that you give preference to if you get cancellations or for the following session.

Advertising for a youth event is like organising a 5-aside weekly football kickabout - only a limited number of people can come.

Your first focus should be on getting 20 regular attendees. Start by reaching out to youth that you know and parents in the community to invite their children, nieces/nephews, cousins, friends etc. If you already have a community WhatsApp Group or Telegram Channel, announce in there or send the registration link.

Once you have them, three days before the event, ask who can attend and encourage them to bring their friends. The first ten people to say yes and register via your link can come.

If someone says they can come but don't turn up without letting you know, they will get a warning that if they do this again, you will ban them from attending again.

The easiest way to do all of this is by creating a WhatsApp Group or Telegram Channel just for the young people who attend. Find out how at http://bit.ly/DigitalMosqueGuide.

The focus should be on making personal invitations, not mass marketing your event.



Appendix

Aims and Objectives of the Youth Activities

- 1. To develop knowledge and understanding of the purpose of life and submission in the light of Quranic guidance
- 2. To develop knowledge of the beliefs and practice of Islam, Islam and Iman
- 3. To guide, nurture and develop young Muslim's to be the best stewards on earth
- 4. To develop accountability, conviction and resilience in young people
- 5. To develop an understanding the principles of murabi leadership
- 6. To develop a better understanding of our Islamic heritage past and present

Time and Day for the Event

- 1. Choose a day and time that the youth are likely to attend. For example Friday evening or Saturday morning when young people are not getting ready for school or college.
- 2. Consult young people as much as possible so that they feel as though they have a say and they have ownership of the event.
- 3. Keep in mind that the hosts may only be available at particular times. If this case the event must be run when the key hosts are available as safety is first.

Roles and Responsibilities of Hosts

- 1. There should be a minimum of 3 hosts from the Youth Engagement team at the event.
- 2. All hosts will all need to have a current enhanced DBS certificate and have attended the safeguarding / health and safety courses required to carry out risk assessments.
- 3. To organise and prepare for activities, where appropriate.
- 4. To supervise activities and discussions, and where appropriate to participate alongside the young people and to carry out these tasks in a way that meets the aims and values of the Masjid
- 5. To attend and take part in planning and recording meetings as and when required.
- 6. To work within the policies, guidelines and legal requirements of the organisation



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Planning Engaging Youth Activities

- 1. The essence of the 'Youth Hubb' is to bring young people into the space so that they can become involved in thought provoking discussions which will inevitably make them better understand their deen and become firm upon Islam.
- 2. Every set of young people are unique both in group dynamics and size of group, young people could struggle to relate to others and some of the games just might not work with the group you have, so when you plan an activity be thinking about if each part will work with your group or not and don't be afraid to change it.
- 3. The nature of the activities can be linked to what interests the youth. This can be making milk shakes, football, boxing, tug of war, learning to embroider, knit or draw henna designs etc
- 4. Resources for the activities can be sourced by the organisation or borrowed from the local community. So if you are making waffles and pancakes you could borrow the machines from parents or buy machines as an investment for the project if you intend to make it a regular part of your engagement strategy.
- 5. Ingredients for the food activities and snacks should be supplied by the organisation Ingredients should be allocated to the logistics team who is solely in charge of purchasing. Drinks like water, squash, soft drinks and snacks should be crisps, chocolates, fruits so that they are easy to purchase.

Registration

- 1. It is efficient to get all the attendees to register online via free services like eventbrite or google forms.
- 2. The advertising for the event should have a link for registration clearly displayed so that you can monitor how many attendees there will be. The Mosque will need to announce the event daily after each salah so that the local community finds out about the event and their families attend.
- 3. This same announcement should be made on Jummah for the entire community to hear.
- 4. On the day of the event, ensure one host from the marketing team is in charge of checking in off all the attendees electronically. This can be done on a mobile phone.
- Anyone turning up on the day without registering can be registered at the door. Never turn someone away if they have not registered.
- 6. Ensure all attendees disclose any serious medical issues as well as emergency contact details.





Structure of the session

- 1. A general understanding of what sessions will include should be shared with the hosts. However the sessions do not need to be structured or rigid.
- 2. There should be 3 parts to the sessions: Ice breaker, main activity and discussion time. The young people may need a few introductory sessions so that they can get to know one another and form friendship groups.
- 3. A time limit can be agreed so that the sessions have a start and finish time.
- 4. Salah should be incorporated into the sessions. Youth Engagement Hosts will be responsible for showing the young people how to make wudu and perform the salaah. This can be done naturally and sensitively through leading by example. e.g a Youth Engagement host should go in with the attendees to make Wudu themselves and not make a point about it the young people will observe and copy if they need to. No lecture needed.
- 5. At the end of the session the young people should complete a feedback form, manually or electronically.
- 6. It is also important to ask the young people what other engaging activities they would like to attend.

Evaluation

- 1. All four organising teams should be engaged in weekly review sessions which will allow activities and discussions to remain relevant to the young people.
- 2. Young people may have specific ideas for activities; these should be factored into planning future sessions where practicable.
- 3. Consider what difference did the project make for young people that week?
- 4. Discuss how well the activities helped achieve the project aims?
- 5. What would you do differently in future sessions?
- 6. Start to create simple Attendee profiles where key observations can be noted down to track their progress week by week. Some weeks there will be nothing to note and others there will be key moments of breakthroughs that should be captured.





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If you would like to start engaging young people in your local area, get in touch:

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