



# PIT Count Volunteer Training

---

Salt Lake County Youth Services  
Youth Action Board



# Youth Action Board

Introductions

# Who We Are

A group of diverse young people, including men and women of various ethnicities, are standing together in a professional setting. They are smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be an office or meeting room with a potted plant. The overall tone is positive and collaborative.

---

The Youth Action Board is a youth-driven Board, unified in preventing and ending youth homelessness.

---

The Youth Action Board mission is to elevate youth voices within the Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness and Salt Lake County (SLCo), with an emphasis on bringing about change and creating avenues for partnership and collaboration.

---

In support of its mission, the YAB purpose is to provide youth perspective, voice, and expertise to the CoC and extended SLCo community.

---

The Youth Action Board brings youth perspectives and expertise to Salt Lake County Youth Services to promote continuous quality improvement.

# Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Salt Lake Valley



---

2025 Point In Time count

---

146 Unaccompanied Youth (under Age 25)

---

22 Parenting Youth (under Age 25)

---

Weather in Utah

---

Human Trafficking

---

High-Risks for Youth Homelessness



# Youth Homelessness in Our Community

Youth homelessness can be less visible than adult homelessness.

Youth may be:

- Sleeping outside or in public spaces
- Couch surfing or staying with family/friends temporarily
- Avoiding shelters or services due to safety concerns or past experiences

# PIT Count Volunteer Expectations



As a volunteer you are not expected to solve problems, only to observe, document, and connect youth to resources if appropriate.

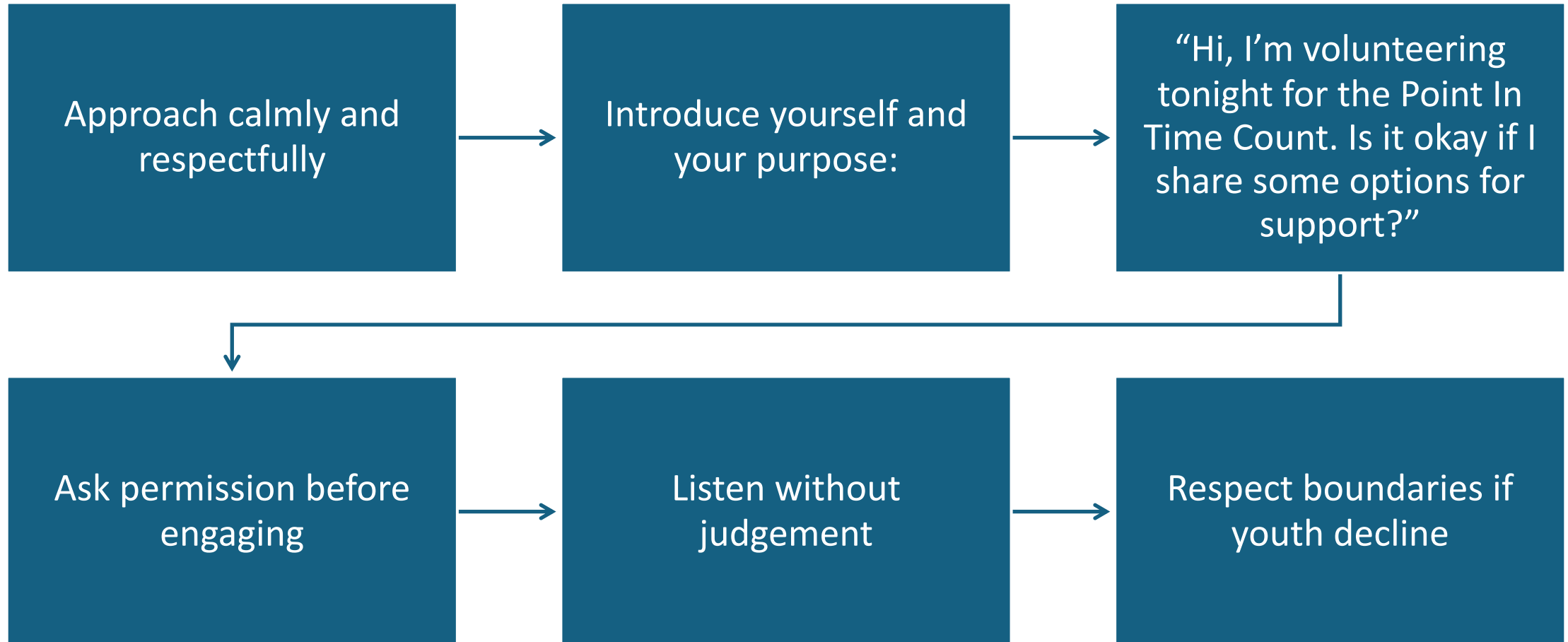


Emphasize safety, respect, and listening.



How you approach youth and young adults often matters more than the resources you offer.

# PIT Count Volunteer Dos



# PIT Count Don'ts

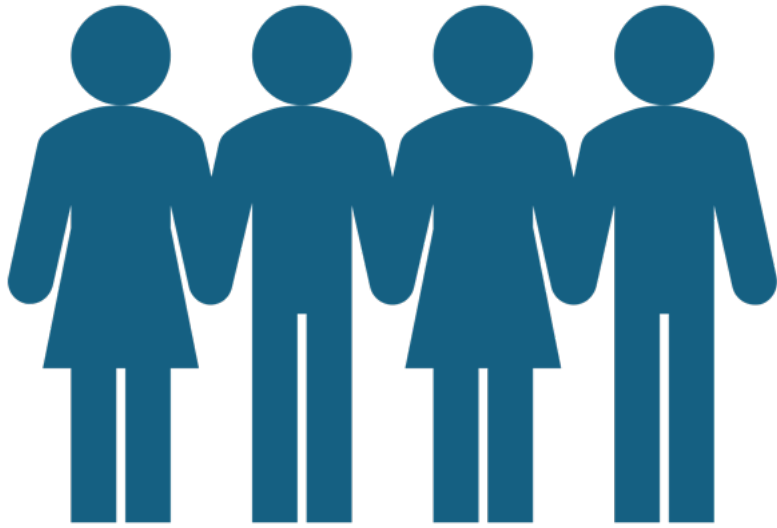
Pressure youth to talk or accept help

Ask invasive personal questions (family, trauma, legal status)

Promise services you can't provide

Assume all youth need shelter

Choice, safety, and respect are the most important things you can offer.



Resources for youth  
and young adults  
experiencing  
homelessness

# Salt Lake County Youth Services Juvenile Receiving Center & Homeless Youth Walk In 177 West Price Ave SLC, UT 84115

For youth ages 8-17

Accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in South Salt Lake

Phone: 385-468-4500

Average length of stay: 2 hours

For more information visit: [slco.to/youth](http://slco.to/youth)

Provides:

- Crisis Counseling
- Referrals
- Food, Laundry and Showers

Any youth in the Salt Lake Valley can access FREE crisis services, regardless of income, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or legal status.



# Volunteers of America (VOA) Youth Resource Center

## 888 South 400 West SLC, UT 84101



### Emergency Shelter

- Open from 7:30pm - 8:30am
- 50 beds
- Phone – 801-364-0744

### Drop-in Center – Low barrier, welcoming space for young adults experiencing homelessness

- Ages 18-22
- Open from 8:30 am-7:30 pm
- Services: Drop-in support, food, hygiene, laundry, case management, housing navigation

# Quick tips when talking to youth experiencing homelessness:

Offer resources and options, not instructions

Document observations, but do not force engagement

# Talking to youth experiencing homelessness: Examples

- “Hi, I’m volunteering tonight for the PIT Count. Would it be okay if I shared a couple of options for support?”
- “Here are some places other youth have said they feel safe and supported.”
- “You don’t have to decide anything tonight.”

Brief, respectful interactions can help youth feel seen, supported, and safer.

# Final Thoughts

Emphasize

Emphasize dignity, choice, and safety for youth.

Observe

As a volunteer your role is to observe, document, share resources, and maintain safety.

Thanks

Thank you for volunteering for the PIT Count. By showing respect, listening and sharing the right resources, you can make a real difference for youth experiencing homelessness, even if just one encounter.

# Questions?

[SLCO.TO/YAB](http://SLCO.TO/YAB)

Cameron Thompson, Youth Action Board President

385-229-0076