

characteristics of a globally competent youth worker

In order to effectively promote global competence among program participants, youth workers must work to build global competence within themselves. The items below outline the characteristics of a globally competent youth worker. It should be noted, however, that this list is a goal to work toward, not an expected starting point. It is not necessary for staff to feel confident with all of these characteristics before beginning to infuse global learning into their programs and activities.

Staff can use this checklist to identify the areas in which they feel they are strong already and the areas they'd like to work on. In doing so, staff will increase their own global competence while supporting young people to do the same.

globally competent youth workers:

investigate the world

- Are intellectually curious about the world around them and demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning
- Understand and stay up-to-date on current world events and international issues
- Are familiar with a variety of world cultures, along with associated music, art, literature and trends
- Have traveled internationally or are willing to engage in international learning experiences

recognize perspectives

- Recognize, value, and respect the broad spectrum of ethnicities and cultures in their community
- Are receptive to others' perspectives, welcome differences of opinion and interpretation, and are able to revise and expand their own views
- Understand that decisions made locally and nationally have international impact and that international trends and events affect local and national options

communicate ideas

- Work effectively with people from other cultures, backgrounds, and fields of expertise
- Understand and use the arts from their own and other cultures to analyze, synthesize, and express their ideas
- Are proficient in the use of essential technologies and use them to communicate and work across national and regional boundaries
- Are able and/or willing to learn to communicate in one or more languages other than English

take action

- Use problem-solving skills to recognize and act on the needs of individual young people, colleagues, and the community
- Have the capacity to integrate international content, issues, and perspectives into program plans, events, and activities
- Are committed to behaving ethically toward youth and other members of the community
- Accept the responsibilities of global citizenship and make ethical decisions and responsible choices that contribute to the development of a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world