

Interview tips for young people involved in youth work

Video transcript

[Visuals: screen showing the narrator addressing the video viewer.]

Narrator: "Are you a young person involved in youth work or volunteering, looking to excel at your next job interview? We've got you covered with some expert tips!"

[Screen showing "Interview Tips for Young People Involved in Youth Work" title.]

[Visuals: Narrator addressing the video viewer.]

Narrator: "Maybe you haven't thought about this before, but youth work and volunteering equip you with some transferrable life skills also called soft skills or transversal skills that all employers are looking for. It's skills like teamwork, communication, adaptability and so much more. [Visuals: overlay screen with graphics of skills of Skills Summary popping up on the screen.] Knowing how to talk about them in a job interview will make you stand out."

[Visuals: Employer addressing the video viewer.]

Employer: "Employers are looking for people who have energy and interest in their business. Apart from needing the skills to do the job, they are hoping to find someone who is a team player, problem solver and good communicator; a person who has commitment, which is widely viewed as a skill in itself. Being involved in youth work shows that you are interested in the world around you, and your part in it!"

[Visuals: screen showing different young people in an interview situation.]

Narrator: "So let's dive into some examples of how your youth work experiences can make you shine in a job interview!"

[Visuals: Employer addressing the video viewer.]

Employer: "Imagine I interview two candidates and I'm asking the same question about their leadership ability. And the first one says:"

[Visuals: interview setting with young person A.]

Young person A: "Yes, I took a group away with my youth club, it went very well, and they all had a good time."

[Visuals: Employer addressing the video viewer.]

"Now, let's look at the other candidate with the same experience in the same scenario."

[Visuals: interview setting with young person B.]

Young person B: "Yes, I was part of the team that organised the trip away for young people. I was involved in the planning, the logistics, and the finances of the trip. While I was on the trip, I was responsible for the health and safety of the young people and facilitating educational activities. Following the trip, we carried out an evaluation and we found that the majority of the participants had a good time and gained new knowledge and skills."

[Visuals: Employer addressing the video viewer.]

Employer: "Which of those two answers do you think would impress an interviewer more? Candidate B clearly demonstrated their skills by not only taking part in organising the trip but also taking responsibility for the wellbeing of the participants and evaluating the project's success. So remember, in your interview, use specific examples, highlight your involvement, and emphasise the impact of your actions. That's how you're gonna stand out, that's how you're gonna land the job!"

[Visuals: footage of young people in interview situations.]

Narrator: "Now let's look at some other questions you might be asked and how you used your skills gained through youth work to answer them."

[Visuals: Employer and a young person C in the interview setting.]

Employer: "What are your communication skills?"

Young person C: "Communication is a key component in youth work, and I have learned to think about who the audience might be for what we are presenting. This is something new to me, but something I'm coming to see as important. Our youth group went on an exchange to Finland and part of our work was to make a presentation on our group activities. I didn't have much experience speaking in public at the time and was quite nervous at the thought of it. We designed the presentation together and I practiced my piece alone at first and then with my youth worker to get her opinion. I made some changes and improvements and then I did it for our whole group. They were impressed. In Finland, it was important for us to remember that English was not everyone's first language and Irish people speak quite fast. We had to remember to speak more slowly and not to use difficult words. It went down really well with everyone in the end."

[Visuals: Employer and a young person A in the interview setting.]

Employer: "Do you have organisation skills?"

Young person A: "Yes, our youth group wanted to stay away somewhere overnight, so as a group, we decided to stay in a youth hostel. I took the lead on the discussions about what we needed to do and what we had to bring. Rather than giving them a big long list of what to bring, we talked about it and listened to everyone's ideas. And at the end, I typed up the list and gave everyone a copy. The youth worker had consent forms for everyone, and I made a spreadsheet to gather all the information like emergency contacts, allergies, etc., to make it easier to manage."

[Visuals: Employer and a young person B in the interview setting.]

Employer: How do you solve problems and what do you do when things go wrong?

Young person B: "We were away on a day trip with our group when one of the younger members got anxious and had a panic attack. I could see that the other members were getting quite concerned. The youth worker was needed to look after the person who was experiencing anxiety, so I called the others away and diverted them by playing some energisers, we have lots of them in our toolkit. I

was able to act quickly. The group really had to concentrate and it was competitive. Pretty soon they were completely absorbed. This meant that the youth worker and the anxious young person could be together, and the rest of the group was safely occupied. I got a lot of praise for my quick thinking!"

[Visuals: Employer and a young person B in the interview setting.]

Employer: Are you a team player?

Young person A: "Yes, everything about youth work is team based. For example, our youth group organised a soccer game and a picnic with some local children. And on the day it was really wet, and they couldn't play. They were very disappointed and started fighting among themselves. So we had to be creative and problem solve as a team, so we used a big room for fun indoor games. We divided up the jobs amongst us and helped each other out. There was plenty of running around to use up the children's energy and then afterwards we had an indoor picnic on rugs pretending we were outside. It was a great day and we all felt it was a great team effort!"

[Visuals: footage of young people in interview and work situations.]

Narrator: "Remember, your involvement in youth work has equipped you with valuable experiences and skills that are highly transferrable to any job. Skills Summary will help you understand those skills, figure out how great they are and record examples of where and how you demonstrated them. And by reflecting on your experiences and articulating them effectively in your job interview, you'll impress potential employers and stand out from the crowd."

[Visuals: Narrator addressing the camera.]

Narrator: "So go ahead, capture and showcase your skills, and seize those opportunities! You've got this!"

[Visuals: video ending with the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI), Skills Summary, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) and Dormant Accounts logos appearing on the screen.]