

The *Planning Process* is a decision-making tool that supports the organization's overall philosophy about youth-centered leadership and personal growth. It can be used to determine group action in a chapter or class or to plan individual projects.



## IDENTIFY CONCERNS

The circle represents a continuous flow of ideas and has no beginning or end. As a target, it symbolizes zeroing in on the one idea around which you would like to build a project.

- Brainstorm to generate ideas, or state the activity or problem you want to address if already determined.
- Evaluate your list and narrow it down to a workable idea or project that interests and concerns the majority or all of your members.



## SET A GOAL

The arrow stands for deciding which direction you will take. It points toward the goal or end result.

- Get a clear mental picture of what you want to accomplish, and write your ideas down as your goal.
- Make sure your goal is one that can be achieved and evaluated.
- Consider resources available to you.



## FORM A PLAN

The square represents the coming together of ideas—the who, what, where, when, and how of your plan.

- Decide what needs to be done to reach your goal.
- Figure out the who, what, where, when, and how.
- List the abilities, skills, and knowledge required on your part.
- List other available resources, such as people, places, publications, and funds.
- Make a workable timetable to keep track of your progress.
- List possible barriers you might face, and develop plans if necessary.
- Decide ways to recognize your accomplishments along the way.



## ACT

The different squares in this symbol represent the activities to be carried out to meet your goal. It represents acting on the plan.

- Carry out your group or individual plan.
- Use *family* and *community* members, advisers, committees, task forces, and advisory groups when needed.



## FOLLOW UP

The broken squares suggest examining the project piece by piece. This symbol also represents a "window" through which to review and evaluate the plan.

- Determine if your goal was met.
- List ways you would improve your project or plan for future reference.
- Share and publicize your efforts with others, including the media if appropriate.
- Recognize members and thank people involved with your project.