



Youth-Oriented Projects Questionnaire:

Ross L Gray and Arborgate Combination Response Analysis

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Introduction

A survey was conducted at Ross L Gray School and Arborgate School to learn about the youth's interests in the Piney Regional Chamber of Commerce's (PRCC) youth initiatives. For Ross L Gray, the survey consisted of nine multiple-choice questions that pertained to three significant areas; youth volunteerism within the community as a volunteer credit, the career symposium and the youth membership and mentorship with the PRCC. 32 students from grades 9-12 responded to the survey. For Arborgate, the survey was condensed to five questions based on the career symposium and youth membership and mentorship program. 52 students from grades 7-8 participated in the survey.

Youth Volunteerism: Ross L Gray

The first focus area of Ross L Gray's survey was volunteerism. **Figure 1.1** reflects a substantial value for work and volunteering at a rate of 88% having current or previous employment and 82% having current or previous volunteer experience. Based on **Fig 1.2**, the results prove a high volunteer involvement among the respondents, only 9% have used their time for a volunteer credit. Based on this high interest, we can infer that more needs to be done to deliver the opportunity to the students. 63% of respondents reported that they were interested in pursuing the credit or wished to have more information about it which is represented in **Fig 1.2**.

What is your past/current work and volunteer experience?

- I currently work/volunteer
- I have worked/volunteered in the past
- I have no work/volunteer experience

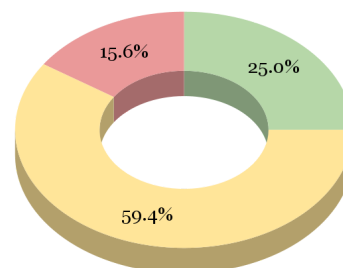


Fig 1.1: Ross L Gray Youth Work and Volunteer Experience

Would you like to volunteer in our community for a school credit?

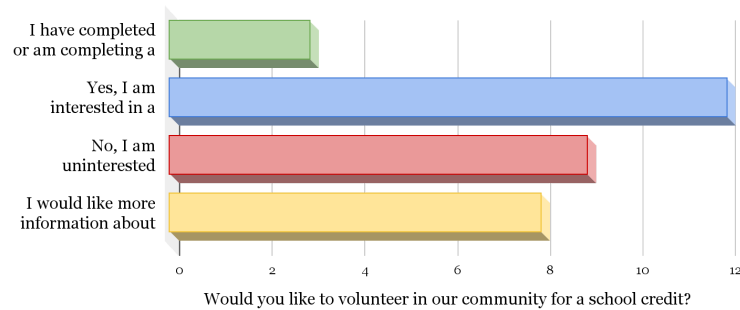


Fig 1.2: Ross L Gray Volunteer Credit Interest

Career Symposium: Ross L Gray

The respondents of Ross L Gray’s survey have all had previous experience at a PRCC hosted career symposium except for <2% (**Fig 2.1**). The focus questions were about enjoyment in previous events, what should be included or emphasized at an upcoming event, and what should be renounced or amended. A majority, 69%, of respondents valued kinesthetic experiences and learning about opportunities such as the Armed Forces, more than the other qualities of the event as shown in **Fig 2.1**. Additionally, 73% report a desire to learn more about career and workforce preparation and connection with potential employers as the two most desired opportunities for the next event. For revision, 78% of respondents stated that the next event should reduce crowdedness and increase diversity in career options (**Fig 2.2**).

Think about the last career symposium you attended, what did you enjoy the most?

- Kinesthetic experience
- Learning about the different businesses and job opportunities in our area (Cat Hills Carpentry)
- Learning about the different businesses and job opportunities outside our area (Canadian)
- Learning about how I can get a job or start a business
- I did not enjoy it at all

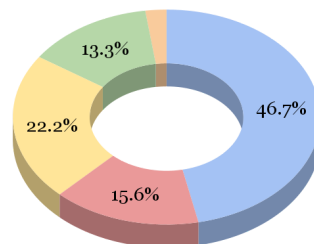


Fig 2.1: Ross L Gray Career Symposium Interests

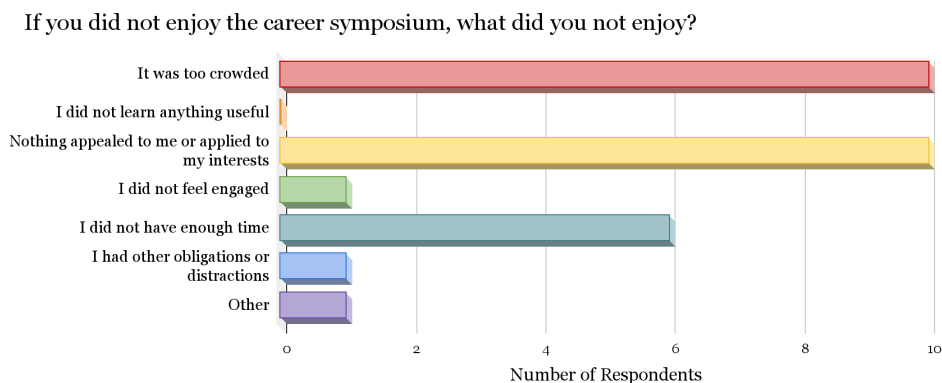


Fig 2.2: Ross L Gray Career Symposium Improvements

Career Symposium: Arborgate

2019 was the last year the PRCC had the opportunity to host the career symposium because of restrictions that came with the onset of the pandemic. The grade 7s and 8s of Arborgate in 2019 attended this event. As Arborgate's survey was conducted in 2021, the respondents of Arborgate's survey have no previous experience at a PRCC hosted career symposium. The focus questions were targeting the youth's interests and desires in a future event, and what should be included or emphasized at an upcoming event. Unlike the results from Ross L Gray, there was more equivalency in responses in favour of kinesthetic experience (38%), learning about opportunities outside our area (21%), and exploring potential career paths for the future (27%) as shown in **Fig 3.1**. Additionally, a similar trend can be seen in the second question of the survey, about the learning opportunities the respondents would like to have at the next event. 33% report a desire to connect with potential employers, 31% want to get involved in the workforce and learn more about it, and 30% want to learn about potential positions for the future. This data is represented in **Fig 3.2**.

What would you prefer most at the next career symposium?

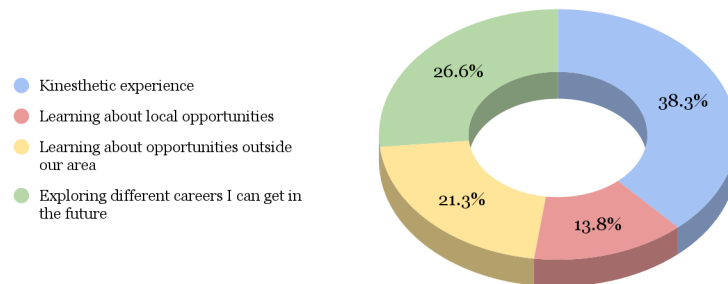


Fig 3.1: Arborgate Career Symposium Interests

What do you want to learn more about at the next event?

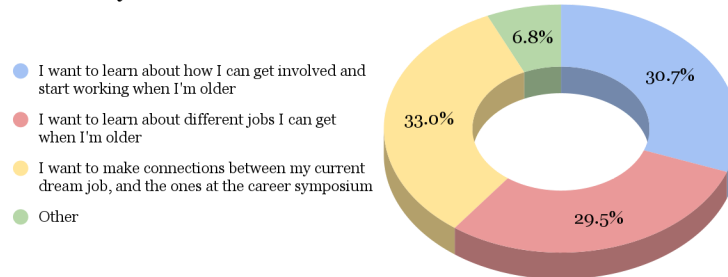


Fig 3.2: Arborgate Desires Learning Opportunities

Youth Membership and Mentorship: Ross L Gray

The final focus area of Ross L Gray's survey was meant to observe the interest in youth membership and mentorship with the PRCC. Following a brief outline of the opportunity, the respondents were asked if the opportunity would be valuable to them. As seen in **Fig 4.1**, 72% report a moderate to high interest in the program, and only 3% reported that it would not help guide their current career objectives. Of those favouring the program, the prevailing interest was rooted in gaining work and business ownership experience and diversification in their skills and knowledge for the future. Finally, age inclusion was separated into four groups; 14-16, 16-18, 18-24, and 24-29. The PRCC proposed the age category to be 16-25, although respondents

reported a more desirable catchment would be 14-24. Therefore, over the age of 25 is undesired by a majority of the surveyed youth.

What age class should the youth membership include?

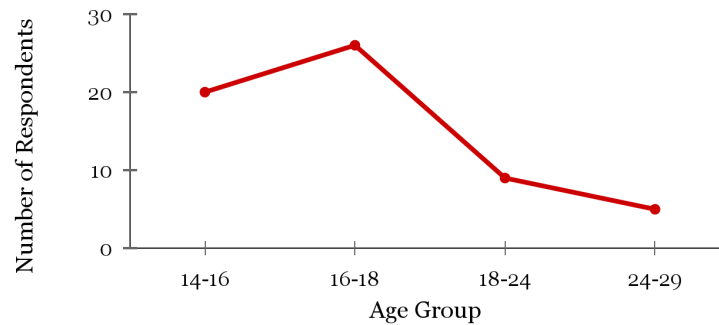


Fig 4.1: Ross L Gray Age Category Vote

Youth Membership and Mentorship: Arborgate

The second and final focus area of Arborgate’s survey was meant to observe the interest in youth membership and mentorship with the PRCC. The outline of the opportunity was similar to the description of the Ross L Gray version. The respondents of Arborgate were asked if the opportunity would be valuable to them. In comparison to Ross L Gray’s results, respondents from Arborgate had an even higher interest in the program; 85% report a moderate to high interest in the program, and only 3% reported that it would not help guide their current career objectives. Of those favouring the program, the prevailing interest was rooted in gaining work and business ownership experience and diversification in their skills and knowledge for the future (**Fig 5.1**). The final question, about age inclusion, had the same categories as the Ross L Gray survey with the addition of a ‘younger than 14’ option. The results show that there is majority interest (89%) between the ages of ‘younger than 14’ up to 18 as shown in **Fig 5.2**.

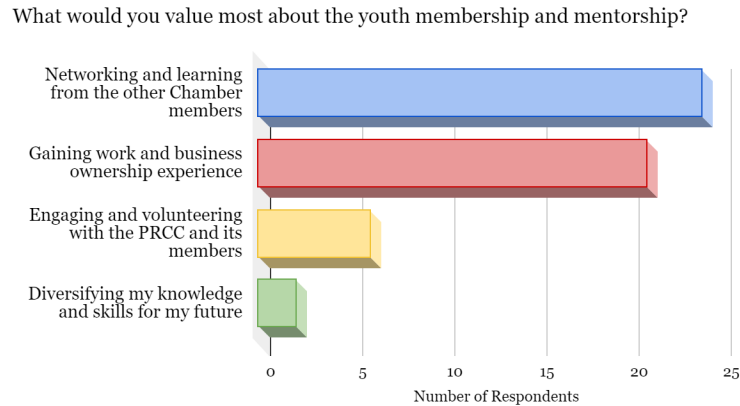


Fig 5.1: Arborgate Youth Category Interests

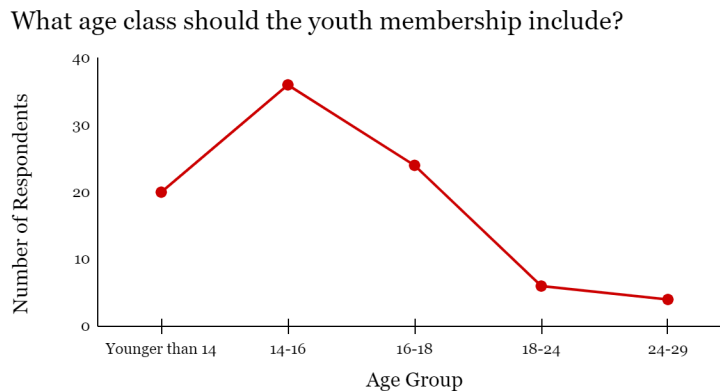


Fig 5.2: Arborgate Age Category Vote

Summary

In summary, the surveys have provided great feedback about what the PRCC should be focusing on within the youth initiatives. In order of introduction, the PRCC will make inferences based on the results. Ross L Gray respondents have interest, but little knowledge, about volunteer credit. In the future, Ross L Gray must advertise this opportunity more clearly to students, and the PRCC must present a concise list of volunteering opportunities to the school. Secondly, in Ross L Gray's survey, the career symposium has proved to be helpful. Despite this, there is room for improvement and expansion both with the venue and the occupants of the

event. In Arborgate's survey, the results are positive and show enthusiasm about the workforce, even in such a young age group. Finally, the youth membership and mentorship have a high interest from both schools, which means the program should move forward with high anticipated enrollment.