



Active Insight: Evidence in Action



Tip #1161: Building Multi-Year Extracurricular Leadership Opportunities

Overview

Multi-year leadership programs give students a structured pathway to grow from guided participation into independent facilitation over time. Progressive responsibility across year levels builds depth of skill and commitment that a single-year program cannot replicate. Students who stay engaged in leadership roles across multiple years develop a strong sense of identity as active contributors to the school community, and the skills they build in one year become the foundation for what they take on in the next.

Key Teaching Ideas

A clear progression of roles is what separates a multi-year program from a series of disconnected experiences. Teachers can map out what each year level is expected to contribute, from basic game facilitation in Year 8 to program design and community outreach in Year 12. Providing mentorship and advanced training as students move through the program sustains motivation and ensures each cohort builds on the work of those before them.

Practical Application

- **Tiered Mentorship Structure:** Pair senior students with junior leaders so that knowledge and experience are passed down through the program, with each year level taking on increasing responsibility for guiding those below them.
- **Year-Level Role Progression:** Map out a clear sequence of leadership responsibilities across year levels, so students know what they are working toward and what they will be expected to lead as they advance.
- **Specialised Leadership Portfolios:** Allow students to focus on an area of interest within the program, such as event logistics, inclusion design, or equipment coordination, building genuine expertise over time.
- **Community-Facing Projects:** Challenge senior leaders to initiate a physical activity project that benefits the wider community, applying their accumulated skills in a real-world context beyond the school.



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- **Annual Leadership Recognition:** Acknowledge sustained multi-year commitment through a formal recognition process at the end of each year, providing tangible evidence of growth for students to include in future applications.

Next Steps

Resources on building multi-year leadership pathways are available through the [Active Education Australia website](#). [Anywhere PD](#) includes practical resources for teachers developing sustained extracurricular programs.

References and Research

1. Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education (v9) – Emphasises sustained engagement and progressive development of personal and social capability across year levels.
2. Australian Sports Commission: Physical Literacy – Describes how long-term leadership roles support the psychological and social dimensions of physical development.