Listen and help the youth in describing themselves and their interests. Have a conversation about the value of volunteerism and the connection between their strengths and skills and the needs of the community.

Conversation Starters

LISTEN: “What makes a community?”
LISTEN: “What are different roles people play in a community?”
SHARE: “Think back to middle school. Share a story about an experience that shaped your view of your community.”
LISTEN: “What do you want to gain from your time in middle school? How can we connect these ideas with your community?”

Check In & Ask The Youth

School Progress
- What do you need to do to complete this year’s school requirements?
- Have you started a Personalized Learning Plan (PLP)?
- What help do you need to achieve your goals?

Interests
- What are you interested in (e.g., academic subjects, leisure activities, career aspirations, etc.)?
- What activities bring you joy?

Experience to Date
- What experiences have you had (e.g., chores, team sports, jobs, fundraising, volunteering, etc.)?

Skills
- What are your unique or favorite abilities?
- What skills do you already have?
- What new skills are you learning?
- What skills do you want to develop?

Community Service & Volunteerism
- What is community service & volunteerism?
- Why do people volunteer?

Suggested Match Activities

COMPLETE: Interest Inventory; Identify your interest relating to school, hobbies, activities, and work.
EXPLORE: My Community Activity; Visit a local site in person or virtually to learn about resources and opportunities in the community.
PLAY: Community Bingo; Become acquainted with resources and activities in the community.

Visit our Future Exploration Guide Resources Page for additional materials!