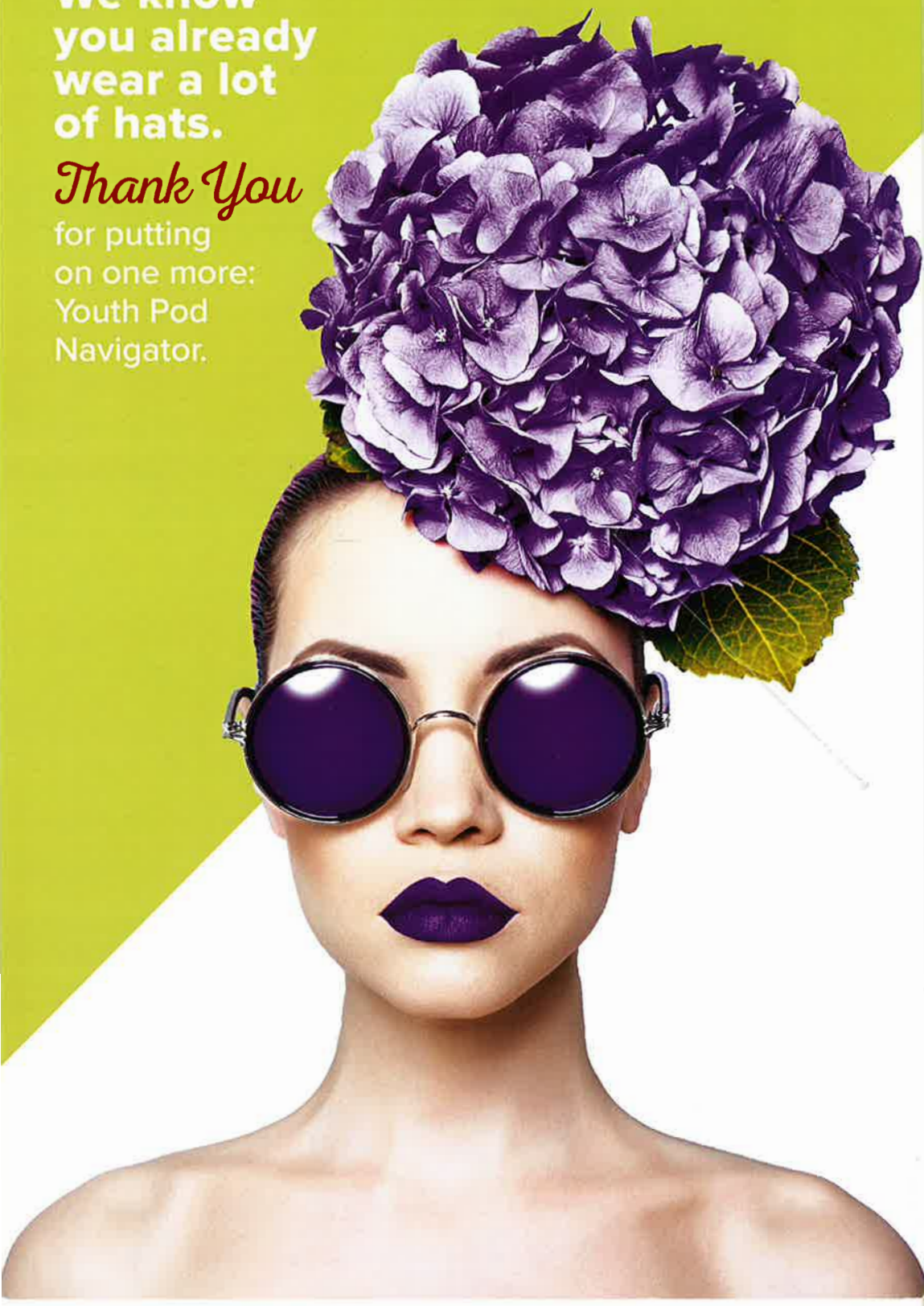


We know
you already
wear a lot
of hats.

Thank You

for putting
on one more:
Youth Pod
Navigator.



WHAT, EXACTLY, IS A YOUTH POD NAVIGATOR?

Hop into the car with a teen who's holding a shiny new drivers' permit, and you might say, "I'll navigate. You drive." That's the exact thought behind the Navigator title. To learn philanthropy, we think it's essential for teens to take the wheel.

First, a definition. **We define philanthropy as using one's time, talent and treasure to bring about positive change for mankind.** We see Youth Pods as youth/adult philanthropic partnerships. Students use their knowledge, skills and ideas to bring about positive change in their community. Navigators are the caring adults close by to offer their experience and apply the brakes, if needed.

WHY YOUTH PHILANTHROPY?

While a person might learn about philanthropy at any time, teens' natural developmental instincts make youth philanthropy the right thing at the right time. We've come to understand that teens naturally crave the opportunity to take their classroom knowledge and use it out in the real world. They love to be with their peers. Teens are wired for doing new things and taking risks. They question social justice and their role in society. In our way of thinking, this makes the teen years the right time to practice philanthropy through a youth/adult partnership.

DO YOUTH PODS MATTER?

The results are in, and they're good! A survey of Youth Pod alumni tells us that more than half now get involved in community causes. A surprising number of former Youth Pod members have opted to work in the field of philanthropy. Nearly all alums told us that learning about philanthropy as a teen made a huge impact in their lives. It seems that being offered the chance, as a teen, to try their ideas for bringing about community change, made a difference!



Inspired!

HOW DO NAVIGATORS HELP?

You share yourself and your life experiences with young people who are interested in making their community a better place. A Youth Pod Navigator is not a parent, teacher or friend (young people already have these important supports in place).

A Youth Pod Navigator is a philanthropic mentor—someone who stands patiently alongside young people as they try out their own version of philanthropy. As a Navigator, it might be worthwhile to think of yourself as a person who asks great questions rather than someone who provides right answers. And, in a twist of what we just said, in rare cases you'll simply need to provide the right answer. After a while in a youth/adult partnership, you'll likely recognize the subtle difference.

PHILANTHROPY IS A LEARNED BEHAVIOR

When a community experiences a flood, volunteers are there to help. If there's a gap in services, someone starts a nonprofit. Parks, hospitals and private schools all benefit from the actions of volunteers. Small or large, each one of these things is philanthropy. But did you ever stop to think that philanthropy is a learned behavior? It's true! Unless we help new generations keep these ways of thinking, the kindness and generosity of these traditions may be lost.

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT OF ME?

As a Navigator, we ask you to support young people while they gain experiences in philanthropy. As they choose how to use time, money and talents to bring about positive community change, the young people will succeed (usually) and fail (once in a while). You will be the caring adult who helps them process what they have learned. Experienced Navigators keep one step ahead of Youth Pod members and anticipate when they need to be challenged, encouraged or complimented.



Maybe a comparison will help: Think of baking cookies with toddlers. If you just wanted cookies, there would definitely be an easier way. But, through baking with toddlers, you teach and make memories. It's the same with Youth Pods. If you just wanted some leaves raked, a 5K race planned or some money distributed, there would be an easier way. But Youth Pods are about young people and their learning. Everything Navigators do is about bonding with young people, learning from experiences, making memories and teaching teens how to use their resources for the benefit of others.

HOW TO START?

Simply. You won't go wrong with these basic expectations for Youth Pods:

- **Focus on helping young people think** through how to make positive change in their community.
- **Help them practice doing small things** to make their community a better place.
- **Remember that teens are wired for this!** Let them take the lead while you stand to the side.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

—Margaret Mead

Brilliant!



WANT MORE?

Experienced Navigators offer these tips:

- Commit, above all, to helping young people bring about positive change in their community.
- Intentionally transfer your Youth Pod's decision-making power to young people so that they learn to take responsibility for, and make, their own decisions.
- Probe into the topic of youth development in order to understand how to support young people in their progress.
- Attend, and be prepared for, all meetings.
- Create a diverse, inclusive team atmosphere within your Youth Pod.
- Strive for effective meeting management through training and planning.
- Connect Youth Pod members to your community's movers and shakers. Encourage them to see themselves as youthful leaders.
- Build a bridge between your Youth Pod and key players in the philanthropic community (such as the local community foundation, United Way, service clubs and more).
- Provide an orientation for each new Youth Pod member.
- Mentor, and contribute to, the personal growth of each Youth Pod member.
- Encourage all members to participate in training opportunities that will strengthen their skills in philanthropy.
- Build knowledge of what others are doing in the field of youth philanthropy.
- Complete an annual evaluation of your own performance as a Youth Pod Navigator.

Don't Forget!



TAKE A DEEP BREATH.

These things won't all happen right away.

However:

- The more of these things that you do over time, the more impactful your Youth Pod will be and the more you'll enjoy your time as a Navigator.
- **We are here to help.** We have training resources, contacts with experienced Youth Pod Navigators and information to support you. Simply let us know you want our support. Email: kschroeder@dekkofoundation.org or phone (260) 347-1278.



HATS OFF TO YOU!

Without you, we could not offer young people the experiences that they gain from Youth Pod membership.

THANK YOU!

Remember to contact us anytime. We can help you with ideas, resources, contacts—you name it!



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