



IGNITING THE SPARK: Examples of Next Gen Engagement Strategies

Prepared by the National Center for Family Philanthropy & Youth Philanthropy Connect, a program of The Frieda C. Fox Family Foundation

TARSADIA FOUNDATION
JUNIOR BOARD

LOCATED: Newport Beach, California

WEBSITE: tarsadiafoundation.org

MISSION STATEMENT:
The Tarsadia Foundation supports non-profit organizations with programs and projects that provide educational opportunities for the underserved, support health and well-being of the community, and assist to employ the employable through economic empowerment

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Tarsadia Foundation Junior Board Who Is Involved:

- 22 family members between the ages 0-21 (ages 9+ are invited for all programming)

History of Youth Engagement:

The Tarsadia Foundation was founded in 1999 and shortly after, a Junior Board was established with the intention of introducing the family's youth to giving and service. The family first worked with a consultant to design the structure of an adult and junior board. Then in 2009, they hired a family member as Executive Director, who developed a formal Junior Board. At the first Junior Board meeting, grandchildren were given grant proposals to review. However, it was through a series of grant-making meetings and later, an international service trip to a leprosy colony in India that sparked a desire within the youth to participate. In its early years, parents and elder relatives who served on the adult board helped to guide the Junior Board. Today, it is primarily youth led. As a group, they have discovered their own structure, focus areas, and autonomy. The Tarsadia Foundation has 54 members, 22 of which are youth who serve on the Junior Board.



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The Junior Board's primary focuses are grantmaking and service. Each year, they participate in service projects, both in their local community and abroad. The Tarsadia Foundation's Junior Board takes a hands-on approach to philanthropy. Aside from funding, many of the Junior Board members contribute time, skills, influence and energy towards causes they are most passionate about. Throughout the year, Junior Board members meet for quarterly meetings, volunteer activities, and foundation-related events.



Current Youth Engagement Strategies:

Grantmaking

- The Junior Board is responsible for managing its own grantmaking program. They research organizations, review proposals, award nonprofits, and conduct site visits. Over the years, their funding model has evolved to include new, innovative approaches to giving such as challenge-based grants in which youth break into teams and are given funding challenges. The idea is to create opportunities for youth to have personal and interactive experiences with nonprofits. Junior Board grants comprise 2% of the annual grant-making budget.



International Service Trips

- To build deeper relationships with international organizations they fund, the Tarsadia Foundation hosts an international service trip roughly every 18 months. These trips are planned by the foundation, but funded by the family members who participate. On these international excursions, members volunteer with local organizations and work on community development projects. In the past, they have traveled to India, Peru, and Cambodia. In addition to international trips, Junior Board members participate in grassroots community service projects. Past activities include building a playground for inner-city youth, coastal cleanups along the southern California coastline, and building wheelchairs for disabled seniors.

Family Circle Meetings & Annual Retreats

- Four times a year, the Foundation organizes a family-wide meeting for its 54 members. The meetings, known as "Family Circles," provide a unique time and space for members to bond and share key updates on foundation-related matters. Family Circle meetings incorporate fun activities and generally take place outside of the office. Favorite locations include relative's homes and the family's organic farm. In addition to Family Circle meetings, an annual retreat is held each year. On these retreats, Junior Board members are exposed to a variety of topics such as strategic planning, financial literacy, social justice, spirituality, and personal giving..



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Passion Projects

- As youth discover their own passions, they are encouraged to ideate and propose their own project ideas. The foundation also supports individual youth who wish to engage in philanthropic activities at their schools or universities, or on their own initiative. For example, one Junior Board member was inspired to return to India during a holiday break to further the foundation's work with a key partner. Two of the Junior Board's youngest members, ages 10 and 11, founded their

own foundation in which they fundraise money through activities such as candy and lemonade sales. The proceeds are then donated to their favorite organizations. At the Tarsadia Foundation, personal passions are nurtured and youth are encouraged to turn ideas into meaningful action.



Speaking and Leadership Development

- Junior Board members often rise to the occasion when opportunities for speaking or leadership development present themselves. One Junior Board member, age 10, delivered a speech on the topic of childhood hunger in India when asked to speak alongside Deepak Chopra. Other members have participated in national conferences, programs, and events related to youth philanthropy, social impact, and global leadership.



tarsadia foundation

Resources to Share:

[Podcast Episode: Junior Board Helps Young Philanthropist Soar](#)