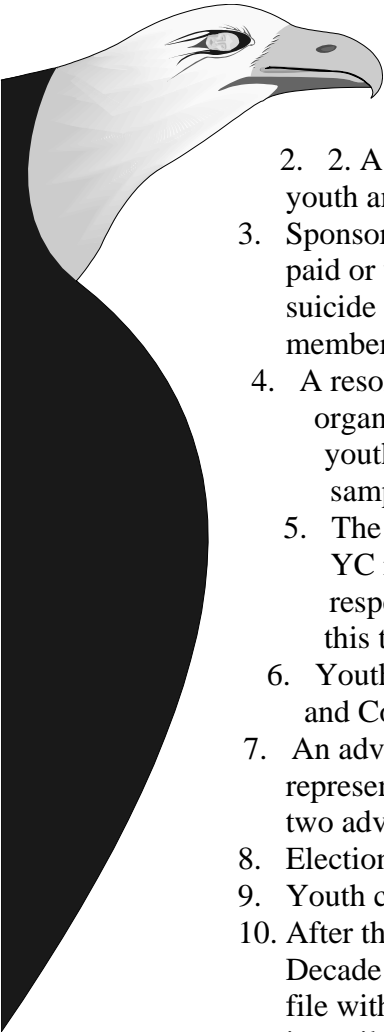




## STEPS TO ORGANIZING A YOUTH COUNCIL

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1. Youth decide to organize. They sign a petition or letter indicating their interest and support for a youth council (YC). Petition or letter is presented to First Nation or sponsoring organization such as a school.
  2. A steering committee or planning group is formed. Group members include youth and adults.
  3. Sponsoring organization designates a youth coordinator or advisor. This may be a paid or volunteer position. This individual could be a youth worker, teacher, suicide prevention worker, or other Band employee, parent or community member.
  4. A resolution is drafted and presented to Chief and Council or supporting organization for consideration. The resolution is designed to ensure that the youth council is part of the supporting organization's permanent structure. A sample resolution is included in this toolkit.
  5. The steering committee develops bylaws for the YC. Keep in mind that the YC is tailored to meet the needs of youth and the values and traditions of the respective community. A template and sample set of bylaws is included in this toolkit.
  6. Youth Council bylaws are approved by members and then presented to Chief and Council or sponsoring organization members for their approval.
  7. An advisory council is formed. Parents, elders and concerned adults and representatives of youth-serving organizations may be invited to serve. One or two advisors are selected to serve as primary advisors.
  8. Elections are conducted for YC officers.
  9. Youth conduct meetings and develop their course for direction.
  10. After the YC is organized, members vote to become affiliated with the NAN Decade Youth Council. Copies of the YC bylaws and resolution need to be on file with the Decade office. Information on becoming a Decade affiliated council is available through the Decade office by calling 1-800-465-9952 or by email at [mgoodchi@nan.on.ca](mailto:mgoodchi@nan.on.ca) or visiting the Decade web site at [www.nan.on.ca/youth](http://www.nan.on.ca/youth)