About On the Table

On the Table is an exciting learning opportunity — a great way to model civic responsibility, learn about other perspectives and explore ways to become more engaged in your community.

On September 25th and 26th, 2019, you will join many others throughout Northwest Indiana who are coming together to have conversations about what matters to them.

On the Table can help your group:

Deepen their knowledge and understanding of local issues.

Explore ways to make a difference in their community or for the causes they care about.

Enhance their sense of connection and commitment to their communities, schools, and peers.

Your voice matters!

Your conversations will help drive progress and inspire action. Eligible youth will be asked to share their feedback through a brief survey. Legacy Foundation will share the results of the survey publicly and use the feedback to drive the direction of a regional development proposal.

On the Table Conversation Options for Hosting

There is no one way to host an On the Table conversation. We have compiled some ideas to help you get started, but you should not feel limited to these options.

Consider the following:

- Host an On the Table conversation within your classroom.
- Partner with a teacher in another department or grade level to host conversations across classrooms.
- Invite community members, parents, local business owners, elected officials, or clergy to join in a conversation with youth at your organization or school.
- After-school clubs can organize a conversation during their meeting time.
- Religious youth groups can use On the Table to have a conversation and reflect on positive work happening in their community.
Planning Your Event

Before Your On the Table Conversation

Be sure to visit legacyfdn.org/onthetable to register your event. Distribute a letter to parents and guardians that explains the youth survey and gives parents the option to opt their child out of the research.

During Your Conversation

Have participants sit at tables of 6-8 people. We recommend having at least one adult at each table, but DO NOT require that the adult act as the facilitator. Instead, the adult can act as a participant at the table with a youth facilitator.

Conversational Guidelines

- Create a friendly and welcoming environment
- Keep the group focused and on task
- Make sure each person is participating and has time to speak
- Make sure no single youth is dominating the conversation
- Focus on generating solutions

Sample Conversation Prompts

Youth who participated in 2017 and 2018 On the Table conversations, identified the following areas as top priorities that need to be addressed: bullying, mental health, job opportunities for teenagers, and drug use.

Here are a few prompts to help you think through ways of addressing one or more of these challenges.

- Think of a way your community can support youth leadership and activism. Do you know of any groups currently doing this in your community?
- How can we work together to ensure youth receive proper support for positive mental health? Do you believe this is something that should be incorporated in the classroom?
- How can local businesses support job opportunities and career readiness?
- Does your community currently have a support system for drug addiction for youth? What resources do you think are needed, and how can this be implemented throughout the county?

After Your Conversation

Student feedback and reflections will be collected through a brief youth survey. Legacy Foundation has partnered with Hart Research Associates and Public Opinion Strategies to put together a summary of the results. The data will be shared publicly in an effort to promote understanding of the needs within our community.
For more ideas about hosting your On the Table event, please visit us at legacyfdn.org/onthetable.

Be sure to follow us on social media, and use the hashtag #OnTheTable219 when posting photos from your conversation.

facebook.com/legacyfdn
@legacyfdn  @legacyfdn

Visit www.legacyfdn.org/onthetable, email us at legacy@legacyfdn.org or call 219-736-1880.

About Legacy Foundation

Legacy Foundation is a community foundation and the leading philanthropic partner in Lake County, Indiana. Through the generosity of a wide base of donors, Legacy Foundation has awarded more than $40 million in grants and scholarships to nonprofit organizations and individuals since its founding in 1992. The foundation manages $60 million in assets and is governed by a volunteer board of directors representing a diverse spectrum of business, education, and the nonprofit and public sectors. For more information visit www.legacyfdn.org.

Legacy Foundation’s On the Table conversations are part of a national initiative funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. On the Table replicates an annual civic engagement initiative of the same name developed by The Chicago Community Trust in 2014. Support for On the Table advances Knight Foundation’s work to help cities attract and keep talented people, expand economic opportunity and create a culture of civic engagement. Knight Foundation believes that successful communities are equitable, inclusive, and participatory.