



YPQA: Self vs. External Assessment Quick Reference

The Youth Program Quality Assessment is a validated instrument designed to evaluate the quality of youth programs and identify staff training needs. It has been used in community organizations, schools, camps and other spaces where youth have fun, work and learn with adults. The Youth PQA consists of one form, 7 domains and 30 scales within those domains that assessors use to provide staff with a score and feedback. There are two ways to use the YPQA, as a Self-Assessment and as an External Assessment and we will explore them both below:

YPQA as a Self-Assessment:

Team-based program self-assessment using the YPQA is a highly effective, low stakes strategy for building a quality-focused culture. Program self-assessment can help managers and staff co-create meaningful improvement objectives for the quality of their programming and ultimately the outcomes of their Club members. Team-based self-assessment involves a site utilizing their own staff to assess each other running activities for youth, have a discussion, or “consensus meeting” about what they find and scoring the YPQA together as a group. This method provides fosters detailed discussion, team input and encourages staff buy-in throughout the process. More information and resources on how to organize, train and utilize a program self-assessment team can be found on the CQI Toolkit. (<http://cqitoolkit.org>)

YPQA as an External Assessment:

As part of a continuous quality improvement (CQI) system, many Clubs choose to engage with a deeper intervention that involves external assessment in addition to program self-assessment. In external assessment, a trained, reliable external assessor visits sites to observe a single program offering and score a PQA based on the observation. Club Organizations can choose to have one of their own staff attend an External Assessor Reliability Training offered through BGCA, and / or utilize other nearby Clubs with external assessors or afterschool networks that use the YPQA. More information on how to access external assessor trainings or established local assessors can be found on the CQI Toolkit. (<http://cqitoolkit.org>)



404.487.5700



info@BGCA.org



1275 Peachtree Street NE
Atlanta, GA 30309-3506