

# Partnerships

## How to Make a Good First Impression

You only get one chance to make a good first impression, and that impression can be lasting. Whenever you are meeting new people in relation to your Venture, be mindful of these tips to make the best first impression possible.

**Dress Appropriately:** No matter what your personal preferences are for style, when meeting someone for the first time, it is important to be dressed in clothing that is clean and fits comfortably. Make sure that you are dressed appropriately for the setting. Looking too casual in a professional setting can reflect poorly on you or your Venture.

**Handshakes:** A firm handshake is an appropriate way to greet someone when meeting him/her for the first time. Look the person in the eye and shake his/her hand confidently to show you are actively engaged. Maintaining eye contact portrays interest and self-confidence.

“Youth Venture helped me connect to the community so I could help more people.”

- Lincoln Powell Jr.  
All 4 U, CA

**Be an Active Listener:** It's easy to tell when someone is not listening to what you're saying. When meeting someone for the first time, make sure to listen closely, and make eye contact with the person. Maintaining eye contact portrays interest and self-confidence. Small gestures such as a head nod or a smile are also good ways to indicate that you are listening and understand what is being said.

**Use Names:** Using the name of the person you are talking to is a great way to show that you've taken an interest in him/her as a person and that you have been listening. This also helps make the conversation more personal.

**Politeness is Key:** Remaining polite and professional during interactions can make a lasting impression. Refrain from using slang words and remember to speak clearly.