

**on the  
TABLE**  
your voice matters.



**YOUTH CONVERSATION GUIDE**

[www.legacyfdn.org/onthetable](http://www.legacyfdn.org/onthetable) | [#OnTheTable219](https://twitter.com/OnTheTable219)

# Thank you for participating in *On the Table*.

On Tuesday, September 26, you'll be part of an exciting, county-wide initiative to explore the ways in which we can collaborate in order to make Lake County stronger, safer and more vibrant.

Young people are our future. Encouraging them to share their views, values and voices in this discussion only strengthens our community. We appreciate your facilitation and support in this powerful exercise of civic discourse.

## About *On the Table*

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The issues facing our region don't often offer a "quick fix."

On the contrary, progress will only result from residents and organizations working together to make contributions that add up to a greater solution that helps unite the place we call home. **Your voice matters.**

On September 26, 2018, you will join many others throughout Lake County who are coming together to have conversations about what matters to them. By learning from each other and working together, we have the power to impact both neighborhoods and lives.

# Why Participate in On the Table?

*On the Table* is an excellent learning opportunity — a great way to model civic responsibility, learn about other perspectives and explore ways to become more engaged in your community. In today's world, the act of coming together has never been more important. *On the Table* will connect individuals within and across communities to talk, listen and learn from each other.

## *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 conversations will help drive progress and inspire action.**

Eligible youth will be asked to share their feedback through a brief survey. Legacy Foundation will use the results to help individuals and organizations work together.

# On the Table Conversation

## Options for Hosting

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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

## Before Your *On the Table* Conversation

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Be sure to visit [www.legacyfdn.org/onthetable](http://www.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. The youth survey should be distributed to participants who are between 12 and 17 years old. Join the Facebook group for *On the Table* hosts and partners at [facebook.com/groups/onthetables219](https://facebook.com/groups/onthetables219).



# During Your Conversation

## Generating Community Solutions

### Overview

The purpose of this discussion is to generate ideas for improving Lake County, your neighborhood or your school.

### Preparation

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

We encourage *On the Table* participants to think creatively and reflect on possibilities, rather than fixate on already identified challenges.

### Consider the conversation as a journey

Every participant's ideas and stories are important, and *On the Table* conversations should provide an opportunity for all participants to reflect on what we value most, consider choices and tradeoffs, and invite all ideas.

Focus on generating solutions. Legacy Foundation wants to showcase action emerging from *On the Table* conversations in order to inspire collaboration and action from others, and drive progress across the region.



# Sample Conversation Prompts

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Use the prompts below to spark conversation.

You need not use all of the prompts nor go in any particular order.

Allow the conversation to flow organically and work to get everyone participating.

- After welcoming everyone, go around the table and have participants introduce themselves and share personal experiences about their community.
- Describe a strong, well-functioning school, community or region. What are the qualities and characteristics? What makes it strong?
- What is the most important issue facing our community?
- What can we each do to make our school, community or region better?
- Let's choose an issue affecting our community and talk more specifically about how we'd address it – with unlimited resources and then, as a challenge, if we only had \$1000.
- Which idea discussed at your On the Table conversation do you think has the most potential to bring about change in your community?

## After Your Conversation

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**For youth ages 12-17, feedback and reflections will be collected through a brief youth survey.**

Paper copies of the survey will be provided to the host. 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 and with leaders throughout Lake County in an effort to help individuals and organizations better understand the needs of our community.

Share your notes, ideas or commitments using the hashtag #OnTheTable219 on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

For more information, visit our website at [www.legacyfdn.org/onthetable](http://www.legacyfdn.org/onthetable) or email us at [legacy@legacyfdn.org](mailto:legacy@legacyfdn.org).

## Want more?


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For more ideas about hosting your *On the Table* event, including additional conversation prompts, please visit [www.legacyfdn.org/onthetable](http://www.legacyfdn.org/onthetable).

## Be sure to follow us on:

 Facebook: [www.facebook.com/legacyfdn](http://www.facebook.com/legacyfdn)

 Twitter: [@legacyfdn](https://twitter.com/legacyfdn)

 Instagram: [@legacyfdn](https://www.instagram.com/legacyfdn)

For more information: visit [www.legacyfdn.org/onthetable](http://www.legacyfdn.org/onthetable), email us at [legacy@legacyfdn.org](mailto:legacy@legacyfdn.org) or call 219-736-1880.

## About Legacy Foundation

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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 \$40 million in grants and scholarships to nonprofit organizations and individuals since its founding in 1992. The foundation manages approximately \$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](http://www.legacyfdn.org).

Legacy Foundation is one of 10 community foundations across the U.S. replicating the *On the Table* initiative this year with funding from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Support for *On the Table* is one part of Knight Foundation's efforts to help cities attract and keep talented people, expand economic opportunity and create a culture of civic engagement. The Knight Foundation believes that successful communities are equitable, inclusive and participatory.



