THE BRIDGE KIDS WAY

At Bridge Kids, we have adopted a set of core principles to guide us as we work with dynamic young people of Africa and the African Diaspora and their adult supporters. It is our expectation that those joining our programs use the Bridge Kids Way to direct their actions and decision-making.

THE RIGHTS OF ALL MUST BE RESPECTED
Bridge Kids International is an organization dedicated to the development and advancement of young people. Every young person and adult associated with Bridge Kids is a person of value; therefore, they deserve to be respected, listened to, treated with care, and given opportunities to try new experiences.

YOUNG PEOPLE MUST BE PROTECTED
Young people have a right to be protected from exploitation and physical, mental and emotional harm. Everyone involved with Bridge Kids is expected to take the necessary precautions to protect young people participating in our programs.

OUR WORK IS CENTERED ON YOUNG PEOPLE OF AFRICA AND THE AFRICAN DIASPORA
Bridge Kids was founded in the spirit of The Day of the African Child and works to link young people of Africa and the African Diaspora. Staying true to this mission acknowledges the past and allows us to envision a future in which borders are not boundaries to friendships and cooperation. Africa’s Diaspora stretches to almost every corner of the earth, so our focus is truly global and multicultural and reinforces the reality that we are citizens of the world.

YOUNG PEOPLE MUST EXERCISE LEADERSHIP
Bridge Kids champions the leadership of young people. We take young people seriously, encourage them to think critically, and challenge them to be actively involved in addressing the problems that face them. The world needs people who have a sense of their power, have the tools to affect change and the confidence to take on problems. The younger they start, the better!

WE RECOGNIZE THE INHERENT STRENGTH IN YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS WORKING TOGETHER
While Bridge Kids promotes the leadership of young people, we also believe they need the guidance and support of caring adults. When young people and adults work together, we unleash the power of experience and wisdom with energy and ingenuity. That’s the right combination to change the world!
WE MEET AS EQUALS - WE AIM TO BUILD GENUINE COMMUNITY

Too often young people are taught, even unintentionally, that people from the West are the charitable donors while those in different parts of the world are in need and on the receiving end of others’ generosity. Bridge Kids seeks to break these perceptions. We work to ensure that everyone in our programs all meet as equals – leaders striving toward positive change. We are working to build a real international community and that starts with healthy, authentic relationships.

CREATIVITY IS THE RULE

It has been said that you cannot keep doing things the same way and expect things to change. We encourage young people to open their minds and their hearts and exercise their imaginations. What starts out as a “crazy” idea can become an effective strategy. When we want to make change, we believe in taking the very best of what our traditions offer and adding ingenuity to develop creative approaches to real problems.

WE STRIVE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Bridge Kids works toward lasting change. We are more interested in encouraging young people to build toward sustainable change than to design flashy efforts that look good from the outside, but only shine in the moment. By studying the complex causes of problems, and planning for the short and the long term, we are able to act powerfully in the present.

WE FOCUS ON WHAT WE CAN DO

When we look at problem facing our communities, it is easy to feel overwhelmed. Bridge Kids focuses on what we can do. We don’t wait for millions of dollars or hundreds of people. When we take stock of our human and material resources and use them wisely, think creatively, and ask for help when we need it, we are able to work smart and actually get things done. We have more power right at our fingertips than we often realize!

WE CELEBRATE CULTURE AND PEOPLE’S STORIES

The Bridge Kids family stretches across many continents and represents many cultures and experiences. Our strength comes from knowing one another - beyond the surface. When we share our lives and our dreams, visit one another, and really know each other’s stories, we all win. Just imagine how much we have to learn from each other!