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For Youth Directors Only

Marsha A. Ellis

Ouachita Baptist University

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FOR
YOUTH
DIRECTORS
ONLY

Submitted
through
Honors Program
to
Dr. Cecil Sutley

By
Marsha A. Ellis

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THE ROLE OF A YOUTH DIRECTOR

The role of a youth director has been described in many terms, some of which are "baby sitter," "recreation director," "a good example", and "keeps the kids busy, active, and in the church." Although a youth director should be and do all of these, he should be more also.

The main role of a youth director should be as a "pastor" to the young people. He should be constantly relating every activity he plans to the spiritual lives of each of his youth "congregation." His role becomes one of mediator and peace maker between the "adult" society of the church headed by the pastor, and the youth of the church. He becomes also a counselor, friend, and an example to many in his youth group.

Many youth programs are built solely on the personality of its director. The young people become infatuated by his enthusiasm and vigor and then, when the time comes for him to leave, the youth program falls apart. Although all youth programs tend to rely heavily on the personality and temperament of its organizer, steps should be taken to reduce the effect of his eventual departure upon the continuance of the initial program. This is seen the need to develop leadership possibilities and qualities among the members of the youth group. More responsibility can be given to the youth themselves, instead of having everything handed to them already planned. This can be accomplished through the

formation of a Youth Council consisting of a representative from each age group, or clique, and the pastor, the youth director, and one or two adult youth workers. This Council would meet bi-monthly and discuss plans for the coming weeks, problems among the youth, and general attitudes. This could become a great aid in overcoming the communication gap prevalent in today's world.

A basic calendar of activities prepared by the youth director can be introduced to the Youth Council to modify as is necessary. A basic description of each activity should accompany this calendar, plus as many resource ideas and leaflets as can be collected. As to the final and detailed planning of each activity, this should be prepared jointly by the youth and adult members of the Youth Council, with the youth director as chairman and the pastor as advisor.

Music, planned "goof-off" times, rap sessions, mission action --- each of these is vital to a well-rounded youth program. Mission action may seem important but not necessarily vital until it is realized that faith and spiritual growth are partially dependent upon the sharing of that faith.

Giving of oneself brings new dimensions to the joy of being a child of God. However, most people have the misconception of giving as a duty and burden that we all must bear, rather than a way to bring joy to yourself and to others.

Of the many hazards into which a youth director may fall, one of the most common is getting too much on the same

level with his youth group. In an attempt to become close to the kids, he may cross that fine line that creates a distinction between youth director and youth. There is a tendency among youth to think of their youth director as the "perfect" Christian, therefore deciding it would be impossible for them to ever become a youth director, or work in a church, or even be a Christian, since they know that they are not perfect. This idea definitely needs to be corrected without, however, losing the respect or admiration of the group to which he should still remain as an example of Christian living.

Finally, a youth director needs to keep not only his young people, but himself spiritually fit. Sometimes in working with a group of young people it is easy to get so involved in the mechanics and activities of the program that the real objective is forgotten. Every day the youth director should spend some time setting his own life straight and talking to the Lord. For a youth director is merely a person and can do nothing without first placing his life and talents in the hands of God.

MONTH JUNE YEAR 1973

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <u>ARRIVE</u>	2
3 SUNDAY SCHOOL GET- ACQUAINTED FELLOWSHIP	4	5	6 ENCOUNTER (FILMFEST)	7	8 YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING	9 WEINER ROAST
10 SUNDAY SCHOOL M.A.D. Confrontation	11	12	13	14	15 VBS YOUTH PAPER STAFF	16 GOOF-OFF DAY
17 SUNDAY SCHOOL M.A.D. Confrontation FELLOWSHIP (FUN NIGHT)	18	19 YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING	20	21	22 VBS YOUTH PAPER STAFF	23 GOOF-OFF DAY ↓ DISCIPLE GROUP
24 SUNDAY SCHOOL M.A.D. Confrontation	25	26 "CRAFTS" DAY	27 ENCOUNTER	28	29 YOUTH PAPER STAFF ICE CREAM PARTY	30 DISCIPLE GROUP

MONTH JULY YEAR 1973

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 SUNDAY SCHOOL M.A.D. Confrontation FELLOWSHIP (TALENT NIGHT)	2	3 YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING	4 ★ CHURCH WIDE PICNIC ENCOUNTER	5	6 BEACH RALLY "CELEBRATION"	7 DISCIPLE GROUP
8 SUNDAY SCHOOL M.A.D. Confrontation	9	10	11 ENCOUNTER	12	13 YOUTH PAPER STAFF	14 DISCIPLE GROUP
15 SUNDAY SCHOOL M.A.D. Confrontation FELLOWSHIP (Coffeehouse)	16	17 YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING	18 ENCOUNTER	19	20 MISSION	21 Co-ED
22 SUNDAY SCHOOL M.A.D. Confrontation	23	24 "PLAY-IN"	25 ENCOUNTER	26 ADOPT - A - FRIEND	27 YOUTH PAPER STAFF	28 MUDSLIDING DISCIPLE GROUP
29 SUNDAY SCHOOL REHEARSAL & YOUTH IN WORSHIP CAST PARTY	30	31 CHRISTIAN SHARING (Hospital & Shud-in)				

MONTH AUGUST YEAR 1973

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 ENCOUNTER	2	3 CRABBING & TORCHING	4 DISCIPLE GROUP
5 SUNDAY SCHOOL M.A.D. Confrontation FELLOWSHIP (PENNY SWAP)	6	7 YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING	8 ENCOUNTER	9 ADOPT - A - FRIEND	10 YOUTH PAPER STAFF COLLEGE PREP SEMINAR	11 DISCIPLE GROUP
12 SUNDAY SCHOOL M.A.D. Confrontation	13 YOUTH CAMP	14 YOUTH CAMP	15 YOUTH CAMP ENCOUNTER	16 YOUTH CAMP	17 YOUTH CAMP	18 "NOAH'S ARK" DISCIPLE GROUP
19 SUNDAY SCHOOL M.A.D. Confrontation FELLOWSHIP (SHARE)	20	21 YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING	22 ENCOUNTER	23 ADOPT - A - FRIEND	24 YOUTH PAPER STAFF	25 DISCIPLE GROUP CAMPFIRE & RAP SESSION AT BEACH
26 SUNDAY SCHOOL M.A.D. Confrontation	27 YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING	28 MORNING WATCH <u>LEAVE</u> for SCHOOL	29	30	31	

ADOPT-A-FRIEND

- Objective** - To learn and grow through the experience of giving love and sharing God with someone else.
- Procedure** - This is a follow-up to the Mission Vacation Bible School. Each member of the youth group can volunteer to draw a name of one of the children who came to the Mission VBS. They can write to them, visit them, or do anything for them that they want to. Then two or three times during the summer a group activity will be planned for the young people and their adopted friends.
- Evaluation** - None yet.

BEACH RALLY AND CELEBRATION

Objectives - To create interest and become familiar with the young people in the Mission VBS area.

Procedure - This should take place the Friday night before the week of VBS in the Mission community area. Christian rock groups can perform and loud amplifiers used to draw the young people in. The importance of this rally is in the conversations and discussions entered into between the participants and the audience on an individual basis following the concert.

Evaluation - Very good! Needs to be followed up immediately with other activities in order to hold the interests of the new prospects.

BIBLE STUDY
(Encounter)

Objective - To interest the young people in a study of the Bible. To make them realize the strong relationship between prayer and Bible study and their everyday Christian life. To aid them in developing their own personal daily devotional.

Procedure - This is a weekly activity to be held on Wednesday nights for all interested youth. If the age span and the size of the group grows too large, more than one group may need to be formed.

In the beginning, this study will need to be general and basic until the spiritual stage of growth of the group members can be determined. Then a deeper study may or may not be appropriate.

A filmfest would be a good idea for the first session. This would spur their interest and provide a basis for open discussion. Films can be obtained from the Baptist Book Store, Youth for Christ Headquarters, or a large public library.

Evaluation - This must be a lively activity. If it ever becomes dull and boring, you will lose the kids. Vary the procedure each week. Have some Bible games, group and individual, ready for those times when you feel the group drifting away. Above all, be excited about it yourself. Do not expect the kids to be interested, if you are not!

CHURCH-WIDE PICNIC

Objective - To bring the entire church family closer together in providing the opportunity to work and play together.

Procedure - The youth director is usually asked to be in charge of the recreation for something like this. Three-legged races, balloon toss, volleyball, stilts race, scavenger hunts, and "checkerberry on" are all good active forms of recreation that can be used.

Evaluation - This is an excellent idea. It forces the members of the church to work together, and therefore to get to know each other. It creates very good public relations.

CO-ED CAMPOUT

Objective - To experience God's love and its revelation to man through nature.

Procedure - It might be difficult getting permission for this type of camping. Everything needs to be planned before permission is asked for, so that any questions that arise can be answered.

A theme should be decided upon and a program of activities built around it.

The following is an excerpt from page 36 of the Summer Youth Worker's Manual, by Ezell and Yarborough, and explains the activities that should be included.

"Christian education can be accomplished effectively through the use of nature, crafts, nature studies, and a general awareness of God's plan in the universe. Events such as campfire services, morning watch, vespers, hikes, and campercraft help persons to learn about life and God's plan for his entire creation."

Evaluation - None yet.

COLLEGE PREP SEMINAR

Objective

To prepare the college bound students for what they can expect to find at college.

Procedure

This study should deal with such matters as Christian living on a college campus, homesickness and how to cope with it, how to study, etc. Various experts can be brought in as consultants. Let the youth ask questions from the floor, in addition to a panel discussion with the experts as panel members.

Evaluation

This could be a tremendous help toward preparing these students for the "awakening" of college and dorm life.

CRAFTS DAY

Objective - To teach crafts to the young people and have a good time.

Procedure - Teach macramé, leatherwork, candle making, and decopage to the young people. Get some of the adults and youth who know these crafts to aid in the teaching.

Evaluation - None yet.

DISCIPLE GROUP

Objectives - To bring the participants close together as a group. To share spiritual experiences with each other. To have an indepth Bible study for serious youth.

Procedure - This should take place in an informal setting every Saturday afternoon. It begins as a "goof-off" day when anyone who wants to can come to the church or to the home of the youth director and just "goof around." This is mostly for the older (high school and college age) youth. An unstructured, open discussion approach would be best.

Evaluation - None yet.

FELLOWSHIPS

Objective - To provide a relaxed atmosphere for the kids to just have some good fun and enjoy each other's company.

Procedure - Have a fellowship every other week after the Sunday night service. These should be times when the kids can just relax and have a good time together. Some ideas that can be used are listed below.

1. Talent Night - This can mean serious talent, funny skits, or readings by members of the youth group.
2. Fun Night - Games (group and individual), plus skits, magic tricks, and contests can be used.
3. Coffeehouse - Use talent by members of the youth group, such as original poems, stories, and songs read or sung by members of the group. This can be very personality revealing.
4. Penny Swap - This is based on Matthew 25:14-30. Description can be found in the Youth Worker's Manual by Ezell and Yarborough on page 39.

5. Share (Youth Camp) - The students who went to youth camp can share their experiences with those who were unable to attend. End with a devotional.

Light refreshments and a few active and inactive games should be included in each fellowship.

Evaluation - Avoid the temptation to sermonize and stretch out the serious sections or the attention span of the group will collapse.

HOSPITAL AND SHUT-IN VISITATION

Objective - To help the youth in learning to give of themselves and to bring a little joy to some of the church's shut-ins.

Procedure - Spend the morning and early afternoon making "get-well" cards and working up a short program of a few songs and a devotional. Then go to the local hospital and to some homes of shut-ins and present the program, give them a "get-well" card, and visit with them.

Evaluation - I have never tried this idea with a youth group. However, when I was younger we did it in the church groups of which I was a member, and it worked very well.

M. A. D.
(Music, Art, and Drama)

Objective - To give the young people a fundamental knowledge of music, art, and drama, through learning to play an instrument, making a stage backdrop, or acting in a play.

Procedure - Meet every Sunday afternoon for an hour and divide into groups according to what each person wants to learn. Have those youth who play instruments bring them. Enlist adults and older youth to help in the teaching. Eventually incorporate all of the learning and talent into the production of a drama to be presented during a Sunday evening service. Let the youth members of the Youth Council plan the program (with guidance and suggestions from the adult members). Following the presentation hold a cast party for all youth at the home of one of the adult youth workers.

Evaluation - This idea creates a lot of enthusiasm and draws back quite a few people to the church who otherwise would not have been reached.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

Objective - These parties are strictly for fun and fellowship.

Procedure - Just decide what to do and let the kids know. Provide transportation if the party is held at a place other than the church. Some ideas are:

1. Crabbing and/or torching (like spear fishing).
2. Campfire and rap at beach.
3. Mudsliding (natural version of man-made water slide).
4. Weiner roast.
5. Ice cream party.

Evaluation - You should have no trouble getting the kids involved in these activities.

MISSION VBS

Objective - To go to another area (relatively near) and acquaint the children and youth of the area with the Bible, especially the life of Jesus Christ.

Procedure - Publicity is the key to the success of a Mission VBS. If the members of the community know about it, they will usually send their children just to get them out of the house. The teaching objectives and plans will have to be fitted to the needs and problems of the specific area. The community should be checked out prior to making the teaching plans. It will be less formal than a regular VBS. The children's VBS will be during the morning with the evenings devoted to rap sessions and fellowships for the youth.

Evaluation - Very good attendance and interest in the morning sessions, but the youth were much more difficult to reach. They are very skeptical of "churchy" groups.

MORNING WATCH

Objective - To provide a last get together for the youth group with the youth director before he leaves.

Procedure - Meet before sunrise at the beach. Build a fire and sing songs. Have a share time and a short devotional by the youth director. Then just rap awhile. Should last only until 9:00 or 10:00.

This is an important activity because the youth director is faced with the task of preparing his group to keep the program going without him. He should keep the atmosphere as light hearted as possible under the circumstances.

Evaluation - None yet.

NOAH'S ARK

This is an idea that we used in Hawaii. Possibly it could be used here on the mainland, but not in as spectacular a fashion.

"Noah's Ark" refers to a large sightseeing boat which carries around five hundred people comfortably. A group of us organized a two hour moonlight cruise of Diamond Head and Waikiki Beach for five hundred young people and counselors. The purpose of the cruise was to provide an atmosphere of witnessing and sharing our faith with each other and having fellowship with each other. Folk rock groups provided music and Christian testimony, but the real impact of the evening was the personal sharing among individuals. Paul Kaneshiro's brother and a friend were the co-organizers of this cruise.

The only real problem was that two hours went by so fast that there was not enough time for the limited number of counselors to counsel with everyone who needed them.

"PLAY IN"

- Objective** - To have fun and observe rules of good sportsmanship.
- Procedure** - Plan several games (inside and outside) for the young people to play such as basketball, volleyball, shuffleboard, ping pong, and horseshoes. Let them play as long as they want to and then serve refreshments.
- Evaluation** - None yet.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Objectives -

To bring back the youth who have stopped coming to Sunday School. To make it more interesting, so that the youth who are still faithful will remain faithful, and bring their friends.

Procedure --

During the first week that the youth director is there, he should make a list of all Sunday School members and prospects, their addresses, phone numbers, Christian (or not), church member (or not). This will aid in visitation and building up the membership. A copy should be given to each youth teacher and worker.

If the youth director is asked to help with Sunday School assemblies, he could use this opportunity to share his testimony, sing, and announce coming activities. This is probably the best time to make announcements concerning any coming activities, since many people are present at Sunday School who are not at church any other times.

Evaluation - A checklist is a good idea and really helps in becoming familiar with the kids and their families.

TRAINING UNION
(Confrontation)

- Objective** - To educate the young people on the application of Christian principles to daily problems and situations.
- Procedure** - Divide group into six sections and have a different subject for discussion in each section. Some topics which could be used are sex, alcoholism, drugs, smoking, dancing, witchcraft, race relations, crime, etc. Keep the Christian approach present in the discussion at all times (without sermonizing). Change groups every month.
- Evaluation** - Holds the interest of the group very well. Keep the topics and information current.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Objective - To familiarize the children and youth of the church with the Bible and its teachings.

Procedure - Use the curriculum suggested in the 1973 Vacation Bible School materials and resource kits. The morning sessions will be for beginners through juniors. The evening sessions are to be mainly for the youth. This is an important two weeks because it is the first major activity of the summer and should spur much interest and response from the youth.

Evaluation - Draws a large group of youth into the church. Cut down on the activities the week after VBS ends to give the kids a rest, but do not stop them completely. Once the interest is built up, keep it alive and strong.

YOUTH CAMP

Objective

To get as many of the youth group to attend youth camp as possible.

Procedure

Casually discuss the camp with some of the youth group. Keep talking it up. Make publicity posters. Talk individually to as many young people as possible about going. Provide funds for those who want to go but cannot afford it. Take a group out to the camp for a service one night while camp is going on. Really stress the importance of the camp.

Evaluation

This youth camp is really a highlight of the summer on the island where I worked. Most of the kids who went came back as much more dedicated and concerned Christians. I've never known a camp to have so much of an impact on so many people before.

YOUTH NEWSPAPER

Objective - To provide a project that will enlist the talents of several youth and that will serve as a good means of outreach and publicity.

Procedure - Select a responsible editor and allow youth to volunteer to be on the staff. Meet at least twice a month (once a week to get it started) and plan layout. Allow articles and creative arts by members of the youth group to be submitted for publication. Should be published once each month. Include editorials, letters to the editor, news, announcements, cartoons, fiction, poems, etc.

Evaluation - None yet.