

# Tips for Adult Leaders

The church youth board puts you in charge of this event. Now what? Here are some tips on how to get youth to sign up and come on your events.

## Getting Youth to Register



- It takes the most time, but direct invitations are still the best way to get youth signed up for events. *“I really want you to go to this!” “I think you’d have a great time at this event. Let me tell you about it.”*
- Use posters and handouts to raise awareness, then have a special time to sign up for the event – at confirmation, Sunday school, etc. Posters by a door with a sign-up sheet rarely bring about a committed list of youth.
- Have an older youth share their experiences from a previous event to get youth interested and excited.
- Use technology. Make a Facebook event invitation, text youth, Tweet what events and deadlines are coming up.
- **Get a financial commitment! Get a financial commitment!** Even if your church intends to pay for the entire event, have youth or their parent(s) pay a deposit that can be reimbursed during the event for spending money, or after the event. It is too easy for well intentioned youth to be excited when it’s time to sign up, then find something better to do the day before when they have nothing to lose. At synod events, every year we see congregations suffer large financial losses from last minute cancellations when congregations pay the deposit for youth.
- Require that the Synod Health and Release Form, or other forms, be completely filled out and turned in with the deposit in order to be registered. It is vital that you have this information for a youth to participate – save yourself the headache of tracking down youth and parents at the last minute, and show youth that this event is a commitment. Be sure to check that all forms are filled out correctly and signed by a parent or guardian.
- If finances are an issue for youth in your congregation, check into a congregation subsidy or scholarship for youth who would otherwise not be able to afford to go. Even a small amount per person subtracted from the initial price in your promotion can really help!
- Provide fundraising opportunities for youth. This not only helps with the expenses of the event, but also builds community within the youth and excitement for the event itself!
- Set your registration deadline several days before the official deadline. This allows you time to follow-up on youth who had shown interest and get all paperwork in on time. For example, if the official deadline is on a Wednesday, you may want to make your deadline the previous Sunday to allow youth to bring registrations to Church or Sunday school.



## Once You’re Registered



- Send out confirmation letters with travel information, emergency phone numbers, and a list of what to bring. Keep talking about the event!
- Have the youth and other adult leaders attending the event meet before you leave to discuss the event, expectations you have for them, answer questions, and have them sign the Behavior Covenant Form. You may also want to include parents on this meeting.
- Begin your trip to the event with a devotion and prayer. Set the tone from the beginning that this is an exceptional event! Then have a great time learning, worshipping and playing with your youth!