

CHALLENGE

A Herff Jones IMPACT Resource For Students

August, 2004

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MOTIVATION and STUDENT ACTIVITIES

It is time for the new school year and also time to get your student activity programs in gear. Hopefully groups have been meeting during the summer and attending workshops, conferences, and leadership camps. Now is the time to put those new ideas into practice.

Successful student activity programs have found ways to motivate their members to be productive and active.

There are things that can be done for your group to increase motivation.

1. Give others the credit that they are due.
2. Focus on the positive, not the negative.
3. Let everyone be involved in plans at an early stage.
4. Careful what you say. Do not gossip.
5. When you are wrong, admit it.
6. When thanking someone always be sincere.
7. Avoid saying "I" when talking to the group. Show that it is a team effort.
8. Prepare an agenda for all meetings.
9. Make meetings fun to attend.
10. Determine the interests of your members with surveys and by asking questions.
11. Brainstorm with your group.

12. Call people by their names. Use name tags until names are learned.
13. Build prestige into names by giving titles such as Chairman of the Dance Committee.
14. Expect only the best and be proud when it is achieved.
15. Be courteous and respectful of others.
16. Show that you understand your members.
17. Accept both strengths and weaknesses of others.
18. Listen to what others have to say.
19. Be fair, honest, and consistent.



ACTIVITIES TO INCREASE MOTIVATION OF MEMBERS

1. Hold a mini leadership camp for all members at the beginning of the school year. Combine training and fun. Perhaps ask former members to come and help.
2. Organize a member exchange with another school or plan a social event with another school.
3. Give members something such as a note with a peppermint that says, "You are a mint for being a member of this organization."
4. Have a secret pal project among members.
5. Display pictures of members and their activities.
6. Start every meeting with a mixer/icebreaker.
7. Attend county, district and state, meetings and conferences.
8. Keep all members informed with memos, announcements, etc.
9. Publish a monthly calendar of all activities.

Now it is your turn! Start brainstorming and add to this list of ways to keep your members motivated!

This newsletter is a joint effort of Jackie Burch and Herff Jones, Inc.

HEADBANDS

This is a good activity for your Leadership Camp or a meeting. Its purpose is to show that many times others are placed in categories and are treated differently. "Invisible Headbands" are placed on people and those perceptions influence how they are treated. Ask six members to face the rest of the group. The only materials required are headbands (they can be made from construction paper) and masking tape. On each one place a headband indicating their role in the exercise. The six will not know what their headband has printed on it. They can see the headbands of the other five people.

The audience will be able to see all headbands. The six will be told that they are the planning committee for a major fundraiser to raise money for a school service project or they could be the committee to plan a dance. The six are to treat each other as the headbands say. The audience is to observe.

The roles are:

1. Always ask my opinion
2. Make fun of everything I say
3. Disagree with everything I say
4. Agree with everything I say
5. Ignore me
6. I'm intelligent.

After the discussion, ask the six to try to guess what was written on their headbands. How did they know? How did it feel to be treated that way? Discuss how we label people. Ask for examples.

What are some problems caused by labels?

Why might someone chose a certain role such as class clown? Are roles always true or do they sometimes mask reality? What can you do to avoid labeling people in the future? How do labels hurt your student activity program?

SAMPLE AGENGA FOR A MEETING

1. Call to order

2. **Roll Call.** This can be time consuming. Some groups pass around a sign in sheet or have a sheet at the door. But a record of who attended the meeting is a must.

3. **Approval of the minutes from the last meeting.** To save time give out copies of the minutes rather than reading them aloud. The chairperson can ask "Are their any corrections or additions to the meetings?"

4. **Officer's reports.** On the agenda list the officers who will be reporting and the topic.

5. **Standing Committee Reports.** List the committee and the person reporting

6. **Special Committee Reports.** List the committee and the person reporting

7. **Unfinished business.** Items from the last meeting that were not resolved

8. **New business.** New items for consideration by the group are discussed here

9. Announcements

10. Adjournment

When there are questions about parliamentary procedure, consult Robert's Rules of Order.

HINTS FOR THE PRESIDER

Remember an effective meeting depends upon a leader who has mastered the skills of presiding.

1. Help others to see that the process is not a debate.
2. Center on real differences not technicalities. Do not permit taking a point of view for the sake of argument.
3. When problems are proposed ask for illustrations such as "Do you remember a specific instance?"
4. Share with the group in the beginning an outline of the process so they will feel that they know where they are going. This is in terms of steps of the process rather than the outcome.
5. The responsibility to initiate discussion when there is none lies with the chairperson.

6. Keep your eyes open and try to catch non verbal clues, readiness to speak, and agreement/disagreement. Body language is very important during a meeting.

7. Keep the meeting moving. Keep the members on target.

8. Remember to start on time.

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"Few things help an individual more than for another to place responsibility on him, and to let him know that he is trusted."

Booker T. Washington
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