

Adventure Guide Recruiting Results -2003

TOP TEN RECRUITING TIPS FROM LOCAL Y ADVENTURE GUIDE PROGRAMS

1. Staff and volunteers hang out in the Y lobby and personally explain and invite families to participate in the program.
2. Staff and volunteers attend family night during summer day camp to plug this new program.
3. Staff, volunteers and members invite potential members and families from the community to a YMCA family night/open house for Adventure Guides.
4. Staff and volunteers host a recruiting session at the Y.
5. Staff and volunteers attend a school open house, set up a table, and promote the program.
6. Staff and volunteers set up a table at area churches or places of worship...the focus is strengthening family ties.
7. Staff and volunteers arrange a table display and hang around to answer questions for two days in each of the YMCAs school-age care or after school programs.
8. For existing programs, ask each child to bring a friend to the kick off or year end wrap up event.
9. Each youth sport and YMCA swim lesson participant receives a flyer, adventure guide sticker and an invitation to attend a kick off event.
10. Each new YMCA member with a child between the ages of 5 and 9 receives a personal telephone call from an Adventure Guide volunteer or staff inviting them to participate in the program.

YMCA Staff and Volunteers Share Their Successful Enhancement Strategies

In July and August, YMCA Adventure Guide staff and volunteers from across the country completed a program survey. Those who responded had this to share.

Please list one strategy or activity you introduced this year to enhance your program.

- 1 N/A
- 2 Unfortunately, the program has not started.
- 3 Incorporating the history and traditions of the program with the new program. It blows people away when they see how powerful this is.
- 4 Increasing communication to the members at large in the hope of stopping declining enrollment.
- 5 Added an "Adventure Passport" as an activity on campouts. Same idea as a regular passport, with every campout activity receiving a stamp like you were visiting another country.
- 6 Careful planning and execution of the YIG to AG transition.
- 7 Recruit more
- 8 All leaders were given an Australian style "bush" hat with a "color coded" ribbon based on their office, as well as a Canadian walking stick. These were well received, and provided good substitutes for the old Indian themed wares.
- 9 Family camp

- 10 father/daughter dance as a part of our scholarship campaign
- 11 At our last event we had everyone watch a year end slide show. We had pictures from all of the events throughout the year.
- 12 Bringing in an outside facilitator to run a transition meeting for the officers of each program
- 13 Family based, with the family as a unit...Instead of the past model of gender based programming/naming. Fits more into today's dynamic family structure and availability of time and resources.
- 14 We have stayed with our very successful Indian Princess Program, with the exceptions of American Indian innuendo.
- 15 Race and splash
- 16 We incorporated the Compass Awards Patch. The children in the program have the opportunity to earn up to 16 icons to attach to the patch. The boy and girl guides worked together to come up with the requirements that are to be met to earn each icon.
- 17 After changing the 'Smoke Signal' newsletter into the "Outfitter News", we used this tool to communicate all the information, changes, upcoming events, etc more effectively via email and mailings for those without email. We also are introducing the Compass Awards program. The leaders in the program are excited to have 'set awards' that the kids can earn if they fulfill certain criteria for the Velcro patches on the compass awards.
- 18 Open houses with "smores"- graham crackers with chocolate frosting and marshmallow cream, showing pictures, etc.
- 19 Offered a social meeting event that was done at a corn maze to recruit new members.
- 20 Recruitment Picnic at a local establishment
- 21 We took a bus trip to the Smithsonian in Washington, DC.
- 22 Having activities with Alumni to encourage.
- 23 enhanced "the blaze" formerly known as council fire
- 24 Create patches for all participants in the events
- 25 Expedition Night at the Y - All of our circles were invited to a fun night of games and food at the Y. One of our problems has been the disconnect between our P/C members and the YMCA. We need to strengthen that connection, and use those resources to a much fuller extent.
- 26 Include shirts in the program price
- 27 we are just beginning and as such, home meetings, adventure trips as well as use of the nearby residential camp have all worked well
- 28 Made it so they knew that support from the YMCA would be there as long as they went by the new program standards. "Indian Guides" no longer existed in the eyes of our YMCA.
- 29 Using a neighboring Camp to promote the program.
- 30 It was difficult to get our program going. We sent a flyer through the schools, information in our Program Book, and had PSA's done for radio and newspaper. We ended up with only 3 parent-child groups.
- 31 Community events to market the program.
- 32 more camping trips
- 33 Website for our federation
- 34 lowered registration fees to keep people involved and to get new members
- 35 We added a service-learning component
- 36 We had Paul Bianchi and the Leader of his Adventure Guides Nation come in and talk to our Chiefs at a Longhouse Meeting.
- 37 We changed to pins instead of patches for the memory reward for some of our events. The dads got pins and the daughters received charms. Most are looking forward to more charms to start a bracelet.
- 38 Rock climbing adventure.

- 39 More Family activities
- 40 We introduced our Camp Cinco days which are Saturdays at our own camp to keep circles together over winter and spring breaks with short get togethers rather than entire weekends.
- 41 Going to a baseball game as a group.
- 42 We allowed existing groups to retain their identity but will organize only YAG circles from now on.
- 43 The Circle Patches and custom Adventure Guide t-shirts, they loved them!
- 44 In order to better evaluate the program, I used the measuring tools in the new handbooks. They are very rough and helped participants really detail their experiences.
- 45 REPLACING THE HEADRESSES AND HEADBANDS Our Officers wear Black Raider Fedora Hats (Indian Jones) with a single feather tied and draped off the back to remember the old program. Our Federation is made up of 4 Expeditions (River, Mountain, Valley, & Forest). Each Expedition has a designated color of camouflage (Blue, Urban, Orange, Green) The Dads have camouflage caps and the boys have camouflage visors. The group was always known for being "colorful" and we have continued that tradition.
- 46 Set up a table at back to school night and show the adventure guide video and hand out flyers
- 47 Went with a Texas theme for the program
- 48 Orienteering course at each campout with prizes really catapulted the new compass theme into the middle of the program.
- 49 Nothing good to report here - we have tried a lot of different recruiting and activities, but are in a dwindling mode at present.
- 50 More active participation at the YMCA level.
- 51 Father/ Child fishing day
- 52 We focused on the parent child pair and the experience of bonding with the child