Youth (doing) Ministry Formula Exceeding Expectations!

Remarkable results are being reported, as youth leaders from around the world are experiencing an incredible ministry explosion! We are seeing youth involve themselves in new and active ministries that they create, lead, staff, and grow themselves – thanks to what they learned in the Youth doing Ministry Formula curriculum. For the first time, youth are seeing themselves in charge of their OWN mission instead of simply “doing stuff” because it is what someone else wants them to do.

I had the privilege recently of leading a local church in Los Angeles (mostly adults), through the simple process. Even though they were adults rather than young people, the results were predictably the same – in less than one hour, these 75 adults had brainstormed over 150 ministries that they could envision themselves really doing once our meeting ended! The two pastors confessed that the result they were seeing were truly unbelievable!

Following a training session, one teenager shared with me that although she is a dreamer, she had never directed anything before. Now, she said, she is excited about the possibilities for her new photography ministry. “I only have the camera on my cell phone right now,” she stated, “but it will work to get the ministry started – and until I can get a better one.” What an excellent example of using what you already have, and letting the Lord bless and use it for His ministry!

This year, I have personally seen the effects of this tool in the South Pacific Division, Canada, Los Angeles, iServe Youth Congress, and in several other places. Today I can report that we have trained over 200 individuals and they have already established over 1700 ministries.

I would like to caution you however. Getting involved with Youth doing Ministry Formula is not simply a Sabbath afternoon, one-time activity. It has such far-reaching potential that it needs “more focus” than a simply activity. While it is easy to understand and practical to implement, it is important that the leader read the complete workbook through thoroughly before leading the group through the process. Also, each
participant absolutely must have their own workbook or they will have no guidance as to how to maintain the ministry once established.

This resource is available in English, Spanish, and French. Don't wait any longer, get started today!

Feature Story

The following story was submitted by Pam Scheib, Adventurer Coordinator in Pennsylvania, USA. It is a true inspiration as to why we “do what we do.” (as told to Pam by the club director)

“One Pathfinder meeting this past winter, Victoria, one of our Pathfinders, brought a little neighbor girl to our meeting. Her name was Kaitlyn, and she was 6 years old. Now, we had stopped doing Adventurers last year because all of our kids were now Pathfinder age. Victoria asked the leader if Kaitlyn could start coming each week and be a "really young Pathfinder". The leader told her that Kaitlyn wouldn't be able to do a lot of things that Pathfinders do, and that she was just too young.

Seeing the disappointment on both faces, the leader quickly told the girls that she would start the Adventurer club back up, even for just one child. Victoria was happy and Kaitlyn was overjoyed. Not wanting Kaitlyn to just sit and watch the Pathfinders, the leader began pulling things off shelves and out of folders and setting things in motion. That night, the Adventurer Club was reborn with only one member – Kaitlyn!

A couple of meetings went by, and Kaitlyn approached the leader and stated, "I don't have a Bible, could you get me one?" The leader went to the book shelf and pulled out a new Bible and handed it to Kaitlyn. "NO! I want my own Bible to take home with me. I don't want one that I just use here," Kaitlyn declared emphatically.
The leader guided her to a table, and taking a pen, opened the Bible and wrote, "To Kaitlyn", the date and that it was from the Adventurer Club. Kaitlyn saw her name in the Bible and quickly grabbed it up, hugging it tightly to her chest, exclaiming, "A Bible of my very own!"

It has been 6 months since Kaitlyn first stepped into the Pathfinder club room and was the reason for the Adventurer Club to start up again. In that time, she has only missed two meetings - one due to illness and the other for a family outing. And yes, she brings her Bible every week with her and makes sure she has it when she leaves.

About three months ago, Kaitlyn also started going to Sabbath school with the leader. It makes for a very long day for her, as she lives over an hour from the church, but she rarely misses going. She is involved with the Children's Bell Choir that started up in January at "her church."

Recently, as the Adventurer meeting was starting, another little 6 year-old girl walked into the door. Kaitlyn smiled, showing the space where a tooth had been not so long ago, and rushed over to her and welcomed her to Adventurers.

As a leader of both Adventurers and Pathfinders, I would encourage adults to start up a club in their church, even if you only have one child. Don't be discouraged if you don't have 10 or 20 kids. God knows what He is doing when He sends you that one child to work with. He will help you – all you have to do is ask and trust that He will do the rest! ~Pam Scheib, Pennsylvania Conference

Prayers & Hallelujahs
Our hearts and prayers go out to the family of Suzette York, Principal at Memphis Junior Academy who was slain last week while at school.

Please remember all the thousands of teachers, principals, and students that are beginning school this month. Pray for their protection, both physically and spiritually!

In The News

The Pasco Takoda Eagles Adventurer club is saluted for their Grand March and Adventurer Sabbath by the Upper Columbia Conference online edition.

Poverty in American (Adventist) Kids? On August 17, 2011, a news report came out showing that 1 in 5 kids under the age of 12 have at least one of their parents out of work / looking for a job. In addition, kids living in poverty is 20% for the first time in decades the same report says. (http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=139695587 ). In your club, what specifics steps are YOU taking to help keep club activities affordable for your Adventurers? Have you had to change plans or outings for the coming year because of club finances (since dues fund the majority of Adventurer activities)?

We'd love to hear what you've done to continue ministry in these financially challenging times. Join our online discussion.

In London, Adventist Youth March for Peace Admidst Recent Rioting

Source: http://www.adventistreview.org/article.php?id=4624
How Can/Should Clubs Use Social Media? In an online interview “Why Should a Church Get Involved in Social Media?” Delwin Finch discusses the issues involved on vimeo. While his interview/discussion was based on a church worship service, as a club leader, questions like these might arise in your mind: “What could we do as club leaders with social media?” “Do we start a Facebook group?” “Do we twitter/facebook about upcoming meetings?” “Do we use social media during meetings? If so, how, keeping in mind the safety issues of our kids?” Join our online discussion! Video: http://vimeo.com/27202605

Thoughts:

From a Facebook post: -- A little boy's prayer. "Dear God, please take care of my daddy and my mommy and my sister and my brother and my doggy and me. Oh, please take care of yourself, God. If anything happens to you, we're gonna be in a big mess."

Many of our leaders and families are suffering through financial hardship during these challenging economic times. Here we share a prayer for financial hard times Source: http://tinyurl.com/YPAC08-001

Dear Lord,
Help me find firm ground in this shaky economy.
As I seek work and assistance,
Give me strength not to be anxious when I seem to be going nowhere;
Give me patience not to despair when things look bleak;
Give me serenity to know you are here with me, helping me to carry my crosses each day;
So that I may do Your will,
For the salvation of souls...

Resources:
The annual Abuse Prevention Sabbath is scheduled for Aug. 27. Resources, including a sermon with PowerPoint presentation, children’s story and program ideas for adults and young adults, are available. A survey published in 2007 confirms more than 40 percent of Adventists have suffered some kind of abuse during their lifetime. Abuse can include intimidation and physical violence, sexual victimization, controlling and demeaning behavior and other negative actions or attitudes. The weekend of Aug. 27 is merely a suggested timeframe. Each church is encouraged to find an appropriate Sabbath for this discussion. A Summit on Abuse will be held in Loma Linda, Calif., on Oct. 15–17.

Did you know that the Adventurer Curriculum is online? [http://www.adventurer-club.com/curriculum](http://www.adventurer-club.com/curriculum)

Vegetarian Campout Anyone? If ever there was a better way to describe vegetarian camp cooking this blog site, “wedonteatanythingwithaface,” tells us what they DO like to eat when they’re camping, and that's vegetarian and vegan food! Even carnivorous Adventists might find a recipe or two worth taking along next time! This Blogger is located in the UK, so you might have to google what a “tin” or “mash” is, but the ideas for yummy camping food (on a one-burner stove none-the-less), might make your next Adventurer or family campout more successful!

Are our kids becoming iPhone/iPad/iPod addicts? There are so many cool games, learning activities, and other options available for kids of all ages....how do we know if they've (we've) gone too far?

Movie Reviews – PluggedIn. Whether we are planning to view a new movie in the theater or at home, many Adventist Christians welcome assistance in choosing movies to watch that support Adventist family values. PluggedIn.com is one resource that many have found helpful. It tends to be the most thorough and conservative of the Christian Movie Review sites out there. Since Cars 2 is all the rage, we’ve liked to that review as a sample of the service they offer.

Awards Resources/ Ideas

The Geologist Award requires “Collect and display five different types of rocks. Identify and label them.”
Last spring we needed over 400 sets of rocks that were easy to identify for the Potomac Conference Adventurer Fun Day. We finally found this business online (we were on a short timeline). They brainstormed an affordable, relevant, and properly sized rocks for Adventurer-sized hands. In addition, they were willing to do an “all nighter” to get the rock packets all neatly packed and sent to us in a timely manner. The rocks were fun too! (Submitted by Mark & Sherilyn O’Fill)

Source:  http://www.rocksmineralsandfossilsforkids.com/

Some unusual Mammals in the news might be fun for starting a worship or award presentation/activity. For example, did you hear about the 100 Pound Rodent in California (from South America)? That might Have Your Club Talking! Or, on the east coast, there has been a hairless Kangaroo-dog-rat-looking Beast wandering around Metro D.C. What is it?

A lot of kids love crafts -- This month we played around with some paper bag puppet animals illustrated by Enchanted Learning. Which ones do you think work the best?

Relevant “Mammal” Awards include:

Friend of Nature (Grade 2, required for Sunbeam), & Habitat (Grade 4)

Is your Adventurer Feeling a Need for a Different Adventure them earn the Reporter Award! Its worth at least 1 (if not 2-3) Adventurer(s) attentively paying attention in church! collect church bulletins (for their scrapbook), listen and report on announcements, and even interview a pastor, Sabbath school teacher, or teacher! What fun!

In Closing

While the stories are still coming in about how God led kids into decisions for Him this summer through camp ministries, and as we pray for spiritual growth for our teachers, chaplains, Campus leaders, and students during this current school year,
let us ever remember that our daily lives are a witness to the God that we worship. May He be able to use us WHEN HE NEEDS US to share His story with the Kaitlyn's of our world.

In His Light,

Pastor JB

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