

How to Offer Successful Multi-Age Mission Projects



BOULDER VALLEY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

LAFAYETTE, COLORADO

REVEREND LYDIA FERRANTE-ROSEBERRY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2011

Calvin and Hobbes on "HEAVEN"...



Who We Are and What We Aspired to Do



- Boulder Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
- Collaborated with Sienna Project
- Fundraised to build for Sienna Project
- Strengthened our spiritual community
- Created new programming in our Fellowship & beyond

Why Multi-Age?



Teens

- Engage
- Build bonds
- Share perspective
- Gain experience
- Appreciate opportunity
- Empower to be leader

Adults

- Provide structure
- Build Bonds
- Model and Mentor
- Bridge ideas to action
- Deepen faith
- Chaperone

Big Picture



- Choose project
- Sell it to the congregation
- Form a group
- Educate and publicize
- Raise funds
- Plan travel logistics



Choosing the Project



- Principles of members of the Congregation
- Unitarian principles
- Ultimately, the project was a manifestation of our faith in action- without evangelization
- Values
- Inter-generational aspect

Selling it to the Congregation



- Know the logistics & bylaws around introducing projects in your congregation
- Petition for board approval
- Announce to congregation/vote by the congregation
- Application open for participants
- Schedule a Sunday service

Group Dynamics



Assign separate roles:

- Project Coordinator (s)
- Treasurer
- Travel Coordinator
- “Big Cheese” for each event
- Photographer/videographer

Maintain Group
Communication:

- Establish contact information early on
- Regular interactive meetings
- Create online group (ex: google, yahoo etc.)
- Google Documents

Recommendations for Youth Involvement



- Inspire youth involvement by creating sensory involvement around the project through multimedia
- Consider age appropriateness
- Youth-Adult partnerships for the trip, "In Loco Parentis"
- Establish clear roles and responsibilities

Youth Leadership



- Youth involvement in brainstorming and decision making
- Youth (and adults) responsible for volunteering at events, planning events, leading events, spreading the word
- Youth presented at monthly meetings on different aspect of the trip; language, cultural, environment, etc.
- Youth autonomy at location destination, creating parts of daily itinerary

Educate and Publicize



- Website set-up
 - Create "Project Website" on church website
 - Add link to the larger project organization's website
- Articles in church bulletin/website/newsletter
- Advertise with other churches
- Brochures, posters, fliers
 - Ask project organization for brochures
 - Created your own brochures, posters, fliers, for event purposes
- Interview with local public television/radio station
- Newspaper press releases or Op Ed

Raising the Funds



HAVE A MEETING AND BRAINSTORM

Fundraising Ideas

- Sale at Farmers Market
- Rice & Bean Dinners
- Valentine Cookie Boxes
- Bake Sales
- Baby Sitting Night



- Garage Sale
- Chili Cookoff
- Concerts
- Personal Letter Writing
- Congregational Letters
- Pancake Breakfast
- Church Service with Donation Plate
- Angel Donor Luncheon

Fundraising



- Be clear about your fundraising goals
- Be present and ready to dedicate time
- Just do it...over...and over...and over again!

Faith Development in the Congregation



- Faith grew with experience
- Intergenerational aspect
- The congregation sees results:
faith, fundraising, support, etc...
- Builds relationships between members of the
congregation

Q & A



For an a more in-depth account of how to prepare a successful multigenerational mission project, check out:

"Mission Trip Manifesto: A Multi-Age Trip in Every Congregation" by Katie Covey and the Sienna Project Mission Trip members \$15 for the instant downloadable link.

www.uure.com

The challenges, the benefits, and the 21 fundraisers, plus a Quick Guide to Planning an 18 month Trip based on the Sienna Project Mission Trip 2011.

Printed sample document available at GA at the UUCARDS booth in the exhibit hall here at GA.

Mission Manifesto Slideshow



Pictures by Stephen Cooper