



A Sample Program

As has been discussed in this manual, the focus should not be upon the “youth group”, but many “youth groupings”. These could be smaller gatherings which are more focused on specific areas in ministry – educational, prayerful, social, single-sex, small group, etc. A stereotypical Sunday night program is not a bad thing, but this should not be the focus of the parish youth ministry.

Each month will be different depending on the season, but try to balance the number of social/fun activities with spiritual/educational events. *Utilize the secondary guidelines located in Chapter 3 of this manual.*

Any month could look like this:

Sundays	- High school youth meeting, followed or preceded by Mass.
Wednesdays	- High school small groups. Once/month have this meeting be Sacrament-focused; Adoration, Reconciliation, etc. - Junior high youth meeting.
1 st Friday	- Social night: ice skating, broom ball, movies, go see the Nationals lose, etc.
2 nd Thursday	- Core Team meeting: all adult volunteers meet and plan for the month.
3 rd Tuesday	- Student Leadership team meeting (for established ministry programs); invite adult volunteers to come as well.
3 rd Saturday	- Service opportunity: soup kitchens, visit retirement homes, etc.
4 th Thursday	- Music ministry rehearsal: prepare for Youth Mass; another performance, too?
4 th Sunday	- Youth Mass: have the young people take charge of one Mass each month; readers, gift bearers, ushers, greeters, musicians, vocalists; have everyone sit together in the same spot each time.

Other less frequent (but important!) events could include:

Seasonal -	Fall & Spring Retreats, drama production, family-based event once/semester (Parent Appreciation Night; mother/daughter, father/son night out, etc.).
Annual -	WorkCamp, Core team & student leadership retreats, Diocesan RALLY/BASH.

You can weave the two together... making it fun and educational at the same time. Examples:

1. **Games.** Tic-Tac-Toe, Scategories, Twister, Plinko.
2. **Game Show format.** “Catholic Family Feud”, “Who Wants to Be a Saint?”, “The Price of Life”, “Wheel of Knowledge”.
3. **Guest Speakers.** Other adult leaders at your parish; your pastor or other parish priests; CYMs from a neighboring parish; secular specialists such as drug & alcohol counselors, NCMEC officials that can talk about the dangers of being careless online, etc. Members of the Diocesan Office of Youth Ministry are also always willing to offer their services as guest speakers or volunteers.
4. **Change Locations.** Try to find different spaces at the parish to use for your meetings, such as the Adoration Chapel, vestibule or the Sacristy. If you are allowed to go off church grounds and time allows, a pizza place, bowling alley or coffee house can also be a nice change in scenery from the youth room.