

SOS LEADER TRAINING



WHY WE DO LEADER TRAINING:

1. SOS cannot happen without leaders; thank you!
2. Leaders shape the culture of the SOS experience for students
3. Where every group experience is different, there are a few aspects that should look similar; that is why we are doing leader training now.

The first couple of years, I was nervous about the first night. I thought about what kind of challenges I would end up with. I thought about what a news article would look like if I left students left somewhere and stole the church van assigned to me. Okay, in all seriousness, I was just a little nervous. Something changed for me with that a few years back. After leading a few years, there are a few things I keep in mind to keep my sanity, but more importantly, provide some growth opportunities for students.

LEADING AROUND THE CAMPUS

1. In EVERY circumstance where you are around students, you are a leader. If you see something, you are responsible.
 - a. Require respect of people and property. When leaving a space, it should be left better than when we entered it (physically, spiritually, emotionally)
 - b. If necessary, find out what group the student is from and communicate with one of their leaders.
2. Model respect
 - a. Don't do anything yourself that you don't want students to do.
 - b. Don't let students do anything you don't want your students doing.
3. Watch for and encourage spiritual activity.
 - a. This could be structured like the prayer labyrinth and debrief group participation
 - b. This could be unstructured like praying with someone struggling, bible reading, etc.

ESSENTIALS FOR THE FIRST NIGHT:

1. Make sure everyone gets a good introduction.
 - a. Make sure there is similar engagement to each intro. (i.e.-conversation happens related to everyone's intro, except Austin... do something)
 - b. Leaders need to participate well. A lot of students won't participate beyond the level of their group leader. (will explain a bit further)
2. Make sure everyone can hear when others are talking in your group.
 - a. This is everyone's opportunity to make their first impression
 - b. This shows that you value each person in the group.
 - c. This helps everyone get to know each other.
3. Pay attention to student interactions.
 - a. See who is being left out and bring them in.
 - b. Watch for cliques to happen right away and creatively split them up.
 - c. Watch for personality types and spiritual gifts and take mental notes.

LEADING IN YOUR WORK GROUP:

You are here because you lead well. All of your experience and incredible background bring you to this moment where you can be a foreman of juveniles and you can make some great work happen! OKAY, NO! You may have some great experience, but your role as a leader is more about facilitating and influencing life change than directing. Make sense?

Remember how you watched for different personality types at the first night. This is how we should put those to use. Our goal is for you to do LESS. Not in a lazy sense; in an acronym sense. This can be a helpful list going into your night 1, but it's also what you'll be using in your groups.

1. **LEADERS:** Help your leaders lead. Proverbs 11:14 says, "For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers." The leaders you saw in your group will grow more when given the opportunity to lead. We have a lot of great leaders here in this room so one thing I want to mention. It is likely you might have a better idea, but that's not what we're looking for. It's more about the process than the result.
2. **ENCOURAGERS:** Use your eyes and ears to give bait to your encouragers. Thessalonians 5:11 says to encourage one another and build each other up. When you see someone struggling, bring an encourager to the rescue.
3. **SILENT STUDENTS:** Bring out the wisdom from the silent one. Proverbs 17:27 says, "The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint" Draw out that knowledge. It will benefit the whole group.
4. **SPIRIT-FILLED STUDENTS:** The last critical group person to utilize is the student that has the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 2:15-16 says that the one in your group that has the Spirit has the mind of Christ. When you hear an idea from your leader or the quiet one, exercise this student's spiritual muscles by asking what their sense is.

So, we've got a pre-printed note card for you. There's a task for you that should be somewhat simple. You've got your list of students in your group. That will help those of us that aren't as good with names. Share your ideas with your co-leader and listen to theirs. Identify the students that fit LESS roles and utilize them as we've discussed. This is how students will get the most out of the weekend and you'll find that it is a relief to not carry this all yourself.

THERE ARE A FEW HOPEFULLY OBVIOUS THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- 1) Adult leaders take leadership in ANY safety issues.
- 2) Assigned drivers drive.
- 3) You're still the adult. I know we talked about letting your leaders lead, but we all have common sense. If your leader wants to do something that you're not sure is legal or welcomed by the recipient, seek out other ideas.
- 4) There might not be one of these roles. Step in where needed. Be dynamic. If there's an area you're not great with and you see the first night you struggle with the role that needs filled, find another SOS leader that seems to have that gift and have them pray for you.