

ILYM FUN LOG

Recreation Coordinator

AFTERNOON AND EVENING ACTIVITIES COORDINATORS RESPONSIBILITIES

The Recreation Coordinator oversees the afternoon and evening activities, works closely with other FUN coordinators and Program coordinators to avoid duplication of efforts, and coordinates time schedules and plan activities that may enhance the theme. Brainstorming for the FUN program should include ideas for recreation time slots. However, do not schedule a program for every hour of the day – the point is not to “keep the children busy.” Leave some periods open so parents and children can spend some time together. (Some years, however, there were some complaints that there was not enough for children to do in the afternoons).

For the children, keep recreation simple if you do not have a lot of help. Swimming is always a big hit and the children do not mind going everyday. The High Schoolers have organized the games on the lawn before dinner, which works well. These kinds of simple activities kept the children occupied.

Be sure to bring Emergency Medical Information forms for each child on field trips/outings. Workout beforehand getting copies of these from the Administrative Coordinator.

At the end of ILYM, see that all game equipment is stored in the Clear Creek House storage shed.

In the past, a recreations activity board had been created and place in an appropriate place. Consult the Administrative Coordinator regarding where this might be posted.

Other volunteer positions needed for Recreation should be added to the volunteer signup sheet (contact Administrative Coordinator before at least a month before the start of Annual Sessions).

Traditional recreation activities that happen annually for which the Recreation Coordinator is responsible are underlined

Afternoons:

Swimming: Swimming trips are taken to the Henry pool, an outdoor one, and to the Hennepin pool, an indoor one. Ask parents or other volunteers to provide transportation. Reservations are not necessary. Call the pools for current fees and schedules.. This usually happens soon after lunch during the worship sharing/workshop time.

Henry: Rt. 89 south, west on Rt. 18. Go over the bridge and turn left at first street. Pool is 2 blocks further, on the left (600 Front St., Henry, IL 61537, 309-364-3339).

Hennepin: Rt. 89 north to McNabb Rd. west. Rt. 26 north to Hennepin-Florid Rd. Left to 6th St. Left to T, left to pool. (Box 259, Hennepin, IL, 815-925-7319).

Craft Tent: The Craft tent is coordinated by a separate coordinator (See Craft Tent section). It is usually open from 1:30 – 3:45 during worship sharing and workshop time. This is a good time to have other activities for the kids as well – most children will not hang out at the craft tent for more than a half hour and their parents want to attend programs.

Variety Show: This is usually planned for Saturday afternoon at 4:30 – 5:30. Have an MC confirmed before Annual Sessions—this is a great job for an AYF or HS Friend. There should be a PA system already set up for evening speakers and business meeting. Generally the stage area is rearranged for the Variety Show. The coordinator needs to make sure that the space gets returned to how it was set up before the show.

Be sure to post a signup. Be sure to define the tone of performances as light and fun. Set an end time for signups (so no one is signing up during the show and making the show too long.) In 2015, due to concerns about the show lasting too long, the sign up sheet included the note: “Please! No more than 2 acts per participant and no more than 5 minutes per act. We only have one hour to showcase all who want to participate.” It also included lines for only 15 acts.

Singing on the Front Porch: This is organized by the Program planners.

Other Possible Recreation Activities follow below.

Evenings:

Movie Showings: Most recently on Wednesday night (7:30-9:30 pm) and held in the High School Bunkhouse. *Please coordinate with the High School group leaders to make sure this will work with their schedule.* It could be switched with the service project on Saturday night. *Please let the Administrative Coordinator know when things are scheduled* A TV/DVD player or a projector/screen will need to be brought to show it. Some meetings might have equipment that could be brought. Also check with the evening speaker and/or workshop coordinators to see if they might be bringing one. Bring age-appropriate movies. Age appropriate movies (both in terms of content and attention-keeping) can be difficult to find because of the range of children attending. Someone will be disappointed at the choice. Also, you need to be sensitive to parents’ preferences for what their children watch (many do not like Disney movies). In addition to a movie for the scheduled movie night, it is good to have a back up movie to show in case the Thursday hayrack ride and campfire gets rained out. Plan to be on there to supervise, or make sure there are enough adults along to cover this. Babysitters can be used if younger children are coming along and they are not needed for babies at the meetinghouse.

Thursday Night Hayride: Dick Ashdown has given hayrack rides with a wagon with benches, built for use at ILYM – the ride is hayless, but fun. This is usually on Thursday night followed by a campfire. Schedule it with him. Plan to be on the ride to supervise, or make sure there are enough adults along to cover this. Babysitters can be used if younger children are coming along and they are not needed for babies at the meetinghouse.

Thursday Night Campfire: This activity is usually organized for just after the hayrack ride on Thursday. In the past, Young Friends have organized it. Check with the Youth Oversight Committee Clerk. Ask Junior High teachers if they are willing to have the children gather wood as part of the

Thursday morning class. Chuck Howenstine has enjoyed starting the fire (with flint!), but you should find others who will entertain the children with campfire songs or stories. The coordinator can also buy ingredients for s'mores. Plan to be on there to supervise, or make sure there are enough adults along to cover this. Babysitters can be used if younger children are coming along and they are not needed for babies at the meetinghouse.

Friday Night Square Dancing on the Lawn: The Recreation Coordinator is responsible for making sure that the band is booked and that the dancing happens. For many years we have used the same caller and band – Jim Hicks and Peggy Holmes - jpehh1 AT mtco DOT com (it is jpehh and a "one" not an L) or 309-274-2228 from Chillicothe. Grayce Mesner <grayceneil9 AT pcwildblue DOT com) is usually willing to contact him. **The recreation coordinator arranges payment of the band by the treasurer.**

Friday Watermelon Fest: During the Friday night dance intermission, the people serving evening snack will have refreshments, including watermelon and drinks. The Evening Snack coordinator sees to this – the cooks will have watermelon on their purchase list.

Saturday Night Service Project: The Saturday night Service Project is run by a separate coordinator.

Other Possible Recreation Activities:

Morning:

Sunrise Walks/Birdwatching: These early morning walks begin at 6a.m. on Thurs., Fri. and/or Sat..

Afternoon:

Field Trips: Cemetery trip – lots of history in the area; Matthieson State Park; Putnam County:

Conservation Area – trails, playground equipment, cabins

Hennepin Wetlands field trip (contact Rick Seibert, caretaker, 815-481-0778)

Games on front lawn: Have Young Friends and/or interested adults lead younger Friends in games, especially right after the evening meal and at other appropriate times. Encourage children to play at all times on the front lawn (not in the meetinghouse, etc.). Equipment is stored in the Clear Creek House storage shed. Check to see what is there and if new equipment needs to be purchased.

Exercise breaks: Young Friends and some adults have volunteered in the past to do aerobics, etc. with all age groups. Few Friends seemed interested.

Scavenger Hunt: Young Friends or the Junior High group have run this in the past. Check with Youth Oversight Committee Clerk and the FUN Overall Coordinator to see if this is being planned a

Storytime: Usually in the evening, sometimes around the campfire. Many Friends are available for this activity.

Star Gazing: Ask David Finke <dfinke AT iland DOT net> about leading this activity.

Other possibilities: yoga; arts and craft show; letter writing table; concerts: Folk singer/storyteller concert; Friends showing slides, etc.