

# PROGRAM PLANNING

## Children's Evening Activities

This is an outline for children's evening activities Wednesday-Saturday at Annual Sessions. Please consider this to be used as a helpful guide, but do not let it restrict any new creative ideas.

### Wednesday: Games

- In some years, we have arranged to have this led by Young Adult Friends because this multigenerational time is important! Schedule this with the Adult Young Friends Group, making sure there are at least two adults leading and supervising. Babysitters will assist if younger children are coming along and they are not needed for babies in the babysitting tent.
- Games should be ones that are cooperative and include all school-age children through middle school.
- In some years there have not been a Wednesday evening program due to low registration. If there is no program, then childcare during this time needs to be covered.

### Thursday: Special Program

- Make arrangements for a Special Program Leader, who specializes in children's activities, to come lead the program on Thursday evening. An honorarium and money for supplies is in the budget for this (recently the honorarium was \$200). The activity should be appropriate for all school-age children through middle school. Suggested activities are drumming circles, art programs, a musical performance, etc. In 2016, Margaret Nelson lead a banner making activity and combined it with a flashlight parade. In 2017, Oba William King come to drum and do storytelling. Both years, the kids and the special program leader came into the meetinghouse at the end of the adult program and sang and shared some of their program with the whole group. This was very well-received and would be good to continue. If this is to be done, work it out with the evening program coordinator.
- Arrange for a space. It can be inside or outside. If scheduled to have outside, be prepared to hold it inside in Clear Creek House if the weather conditions are bad.
- Arrange for two additional adults to assist with this program, contact the treasurer for payment of the honorarium to the leader, and contact the Administrative Coordinator for space use. Babysitters will assist if younger children are coming along and they are not needed for babies at babysitting tent. Though some years, the babysitters brought the babies to the program.

### Friday: Square Dancing on the Lawn

- Make 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. The Evening Activities Coordinator arranges payment of the band by the treasurer.
- Oversee the Friday Watermelon Feast (during the Friday dance intermission) Check in with the cooks that watermelon is ordered.
- In case of inclement weather, square dancing can take place in the meetinghouse with the benches moved to make space.
- Childcare and babysitting is not offered during this time since it is a family program.

### **Saturday: Campfire**

- Check with the Youth Oversight Committee Clerk and the Youth Coordinator to see if they would be willing to be a part of this activity. This would have the high school Friends connect with the younger children by leading songs, acting out a skit, telling jokes or stories, etc.
- Safety, safety!!! Make sure that one adult Friend is in charge of starting the campfire and putting it out at the end (having water on hand is a great idea). More than two adults are needed to make sure that the children are not being careless with sticks and the fire. Babysitters can be used if younger children are coming along and they are not needed for babies in the babysitting tent.
- Feasting on s'mores: Contact the cook (several weeks before Annual Sessions) to request that s'mores supplies (graham crackers, marshmallows and chocolate bars) are being ordered and to assign an adult the role of supervising s'more making. Check with the Overall Food Coordinator for contact information for cook.
- We have been using two different campfires. The younger children having an earlier small fire ring near the concrete slab between Clear Creek House and the meetinghouse and older children having a later fire at the ring in the corner of the camp area.

### **Movie Night Backup**

- If weather conditions prevent any of the other evening activities from happening, the backup plan is to have a movie night.
- Make sure that someone brings a movie and equipment to show it. Movies can be shown in the basement, Clear Creek House or in the High School Bunkhouse (coordinate this use with the High School group leaders to make sure this will work with their schedule). The movie should be suitable for younger and older children in terms of content and attention-keeping. Two adults must be assigned to be with the children during the movie.