

RESIDENTIAL WORKSHOP: WYDALE SEPT 2012

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Please note: These are rough notes designed to accompany a PowerPoint presentation. For a full residential guide please see: <http://www.youthworkresource.com>

Time available: 11:45 -13:00

Aims

- Create a sense of Yes I can do that
- It's good to do residential because
- What you need to think about- practicalities, venue, leaders

Introduction

Who we are

What we hope to achieve in the session

Hopes & fears Exercise

Ask participants to write down as many hopes and fears (reservations/what puts you off) (each one on a separate post it) about residential work as possible

Group these together on flipchart/whiteboard/table (depend on group size)

Overview

Residential are:

A great time to build relationships

Great at getting a group mixing

An opportunity to explore a bigger theme

A place where faith really grows

(Perhaps use brief examples of these too)

Residential Video

Show a video from a previous Escape Residential

Practicalities

Explain that we're going to look at how to get from concept to reality especially including practicalities.

Type of Residential - In house/SU Camps/The Oakes/Soul Survivor/Sleepover

(Talk through advantages/disadvantages briefly...i.e. SS expensive, The Oakes - great if you send leaders too, etc)

Approval - This allows it to be underwritten if it makes a loss, perhaps allows scope for young people 's places to be paid for by the church if they can't afford to go (priority is always to take as many young people as possible and not let money be an issue)

Type of residential - Which works best for your group? Are there enough leaders to run an in house? (good practice ratios in child protection policy)

Partnership - Could you run a joint one with other local churches or youth organisations? Include positives of partnership work and shared leadership here.

Who's it for? - Is it aimed at church or non-church young people? Is it for all your young people or just younger or older?

Plan Ahead - *Young people are busy...the earlier you get the date out the earlier they can make sure they're free!*

Leaders

Ensure all leaders are CRB checked

Do not have young people and leaders sharing rooms

Ensure you have appropriate ratios

Ratios on PPT

Budgeting

What is your 'break-even' - minimum amount of young people you can take and not make a loss. Come up with a realistic figure.

Centre Cost - Is it per person per night or is it a flat rate?

Cost of activities - *Can you buy into activities from the centre or take the young people to an activity...what is the cost?*

Food Cost - *£3 per person per day is a good place to start - are you taking chefs or using giant ready-meals? Does the centre have food options...what are these?*

Travel Costs - *Are you asking young people to sort their own travel? If you're hiring a mini-bus what are the costs? If not budget in money to cover the leaders travel*

Leaders places - *Leaders giving up their time shouldn't have to pay to come!*

Sample Budget - on ppt

Venues

Distance - *How far away is the centre? This may impact parents being able to drive*

How many can it sleep/size of the dorms - smaller dorms = more flexibility, small centres are usually cheaper...find one that suits your group.

Flat Rate VS Variable Cost

Available Activities - *Are the activities on site you can 'buy into' - doesn't matter if there isn't!*

Visiting the Centre & Risk assessments

Finding a venue

Ask other leaders - *People who know the area well may be able to name centres they've previously been to.*

Talk to Scouts/Guides - *There are a whole host of scout/guide centres many of which are open to external groups and have activities you can buy into!*

Google - *Search for residential sites near you i.e. 'Christian residential centres yorkshire' or 'residential centres Thirsk'*

Youthworkresource.com - You can find a residential centre using 'Find a residential centre' which includes a list sorted by region. *This list is always growing!*

Food

It doesn't have to be complicated!

Are there people you can delegate it to who can come along as your cooks? (Cooks = better food and probably cheaper)

Online shopping saves running around a supermarket with 2 trollies on the day of residential!

Sample Menu!

Promotion

You need to make sure you have the basic information about the residential - why, what, when, where, cost etc.

Early bird rate?

Plug it by hand (personal invites work well), e-mail parents & young people, Facebook it to your young people if your church allows you to use Facebook, get it on your church website

Set a 'book in by' date - *Does it allow you to cancel the centre and lose an amount of deposit?*

Be prepared to pester young people!

Note: You don't need to have the entire weekend planned to promote it, just the basics like cost, where, when etc. (At this point the centre should have been booked!)

Key Information - To Include

Kit List - suitable clothes for...? No mobile phones? Will the young people need money? Carrier bags for muddy shoes, fancy dress for a dinner? A cake to share?

Where and when - Dates, arrival and departure times etc.

Cost - How much and who should the payment be made out to?

Who to contact? - For more information, an emergency contact for the weekend, booking enquiries

Basic activities - try and include what you know about the weekend, maybe some activities, perhaps the theme!

Key Information - To Get

Name, D.O.B, Address, Gender

Emergency Contact Details - Always get 2!

Dietary requirements/allergies - very important!

Parental permission!

Photo permission - Do you want to use the photos for the next residential or in church or on the church website...you'll need to get permission and give parents the chance to opt-out.

The Programme

Residential time will go quickly

Free time is good

Include the young people - talent night, film night, games night, quiz night

Activities - Are you buying into a centres activities? If not what are you going to do? - Wide games, talent shows, walks, extreme ironing/space-hopping, treasure hunts, photo challenge, £5 challenge

Theme/Teaching

Are you going to have teaching throughout the weekend? If so is there an ongoing theme?

Who will be doing the teaching? You could share it amongst yourselves or ask someone external to come in and leader it.

Who's it aimed at? - Make sure the teaching is appropriate for the young people who are coming. A in depth study of Leviticus won't be appropriate for non-church young people!

Debrief

Arrange a time to get feedback after the residential from leaders and young people.

Young people's feedback could be included as part of the residential

Question/Discussion Time