

Best Practices – Great Ideas that have worked

(From Southeast Y.O.U. Sponsors)

Service Projects

1. Sunday School Carnival – We put on a carnival with games, prizes, face painting, and snacks to celebrate the end of summer and the start of school.
2. Stockings for Teenagers – We gave the church a wish list of small items that teenagers would like to receive in a Christmas stocking. We got names of 71 teenagers from the Salvation Army, made a holly leaf with each teenager's name. At a lock-in we sorted all the donations, then filled the stockings, glued the names on the stockings and put each stocking in a plastic bag. The stockings were then delivered to the Salvation Army for distribution.
3. Books on Tape – we read books and taped the reading for the Tennessee School for the Blind. We chose books with several characters – each person had a part to read and record. We do this about once a month.
4. Decorating for Christmas – the group went to various congregant's homes to help the elderly decorate their homes for Christmas. (Edit – please only do this as a group, and be sure that an adult is always with the teens when going to someone's home.)
5. Recycle Cell Phones – Gather cell phones and sort, box them up and mail for recycling to help environment, or send them to women's shelter. (Many shelters often look for cell phones to give to the women staying there.)
6. YOU reunion – our sponsor contacted former YOUers and they came on a Sunday and led the class, and shared how Unity and Spiritual Principles have impacted their lives since leaving the area. After the regular service they (past YOUers) addressed the entire congregation and honored their sponsor.
7. CommUnity Retreat – We used the basic materials from Fall Rally family groups and presented a mini-rally on a Saturday (or Sunday afternoon). Church members were invited to come learn what the YOU does on our weekends. We fed them three meals, had all the basics (morning celebration w/ Joy songs, lessons, special music, a drumming circle – used a candle "pit" as our bonfire- and most importantly, had family groups with crafts, discussions, games, etc.). We met several times before the event to plan events, food, duties, etc. Our leaders used this as a learning experience. The people who attended had a blast.
8. 12 power ornaments – We took small glass ornaments and put colored ribbon in them as well as labels showing the power for that color, and an affirmation. Our minister did a lesson on the 12 powers and the YOUers gave the ribbon-filled ornaments to everyone during the service.

