Adventure Club Open House

Overview: This session is an open house to recruit youth to the Adventure Club program.

Objectives

- Introduce youth to foundational outdoor skills.
- Build excitement and curiosity about outdoor adventures.
- Establish safety and teamwork expectations for future sessions.
- Plan the club program.

Supplies

- Index cards
- Pens
- Flip chart or whiteboard
- Markers
- Sample outdoor gear
- Name tags or team identifiers

Advisor Notes

- Welcome youth warmly and set a positive tone for the program.
- Emphasize safety, respect for nature, and teamwork.
- Use visual aids and real gear to make the session engaging.
- Encourage questions and participation.
- Follow up. Advisors should collect contact information and follow up with interested youth and families within a week of the open house.

SESSION OUTLINE

1. Welcome and Icebreaker (10-15 min)

- Activity: "Common Ground." Hand out index cards and pens to youth and ask them to write down three things they enjoy doing outdoors.
- Collect and shuffle the cards, then redistribute randomly.
- Youth must find the person whose card they received by asking yes/no questions.

2. Safety Moment: Prepared, Aware, Respectful

- Advisor note: At the beginning of each session, a brief Safety Moment is included. Safety Moments are a crucial component of Adventure Club's culture of safety, underscoring our commitment to identifying, preventing, or mitigating hazards and risks in all activities. As with other safety-conscious organizations, we initiate meetings and events with a brief pause to discuss potential dangers and how to avert them, focusing the group's attention on safety protocols.
- Prepared: Bring the right gear, know your limits, and stay with the group.
- Aware: Pay attention to surroundings, listen to instructions, and use tools and equipment responsibly.
- Respectful: Respect nature, each other, clean up after yourself, and keep the area safe.

3. Adventure Club Discussion and Brainstorm (35-45 min)

- Program overview: Introduce the purpose of Adventure Club: fun, hands-on outdoor experiences.
- Explain the flexible meeting format (weekly, biweekly, or monthly).
- Applications to fill out, fees for club membership.

4. Track Introductions. Briefly describe the six initial tracks:

- Outdoor skills and survival: first aid, shelter building, knots and lashings, fire safety, and cooking
- Leadership and teamwork: communication, planning, problem solving, and team challenges
- Nature and conservation: Leave No Trace, ecology and wildlife, environmental stewardship, and waterways and wetlands
- Adventure sports: hiking, biking, climbing, and paddling
- Citizenship and community: civic engagement, community service, cultural awareness, and leadership in action
- STEM in the outdoors: orienteering, astronomy, weather, and biology

Ask:

- Which track are you most excited about?
- Are there any skills or activities you'd like to see added?

5. Brainstorming Future Activities. Use a whiteboard or flip chart to gather ideas.

- What outdoor adventures would you like to try this year?
- Are there places you'd love to explore?
- What kinds of challenges or competitions sound fun?
- Encourage creativity — mention that ideas can be turned into real events!

6. Leadership Opportunities

- Explain how youth can help lead activities or serve as team captains.
- Ask: Would anyone be interested in helping plan a future meeting or trip?

7. Next Steps

- Share the date and theme of the next meeting.
- Ask: What should we bring or prepare for next time?