

BUILDING CLUB UNITY

The following is a list of ideas to make being a club member special.

- Special T-shirts: Have members design their own T-shirts. These may be used during fund raisers, summer camp, or at contest. This is an act of communication and unity.
- Secret Pals: Pals may recognize birthdays, holidays, special events, or spirit boosters. Keep a lid on the dollar amount. Stress homemade and simple things.
- Locker signs are great. Keep a master list for yourself so you can help those who are a little slow to respond. This is a project that can get other students involved with your club/organization's activities.
- Awards: Produce awards of nominal value for periodic recognition. You or the members can decide who worked the hardest, who improved the most, who sold the most or who showed leadership. Buttons, pins, pencils, certificates or silly prizes are fun. These items may be purchased with club funds. Giving awards is an act to inform members that their service is highly appreciated.
- Club Bulletin Board: Have a special place where you can post pictures, special sayings, schedules, etc. A place for members to write warm sayings is nice, too.
- Members can thank someone for something, express feelings, send compliments, or post clippings from the newspaper. It should be casual and fun. This increases your communication level throughout the club/organization.
- Chaining: After each critical event or a time during the year you feel is special, have the members add links to their "chain". On the chain they can write or draw pictures to remind them of their achievement. Links are put together throughout the year. At the end, bring the chain to your end of the year banquet. It's a great visual way to watch the year grow and to document goal accomplishments.
- Socials: The good old party is great! However, remind members that when they get together socially, they are acting as members of an organized school group. Their actions can be construed as actions of a school-sponsored activity.
- Holiday Dinner: Members can invite dates! This makes it special and can be quite a dress up affair.
- Slides: Purchase several rolls of slide film and keep a pictorial history of the year. Again, this can be an elected member job. Use the slide show for your banquet or to show to prospective members for recruiting. It's great for the parent meeting, too. Take slides of elections, summer leadership camp, fundraisers, projects, business meeting, etc.

- Spring Picnic: Outgoing and newly selected officers can get together for a time to ask questions, share experiences and to have a "passing of the torch/pin" ceremony.
- Video Taping: While this is an effective tool for evaluation, it can also be just plain fun.
- Big Sister/Brother-Little Sister/Brother: If your club is large, utilize this idea so everyone has someone to get them through those first big events. Write out job descriptions for Big Sisters/Brothers so they know what is expected in the way of help.
- Appreciation Ads: Take out an ad in the school paper or the local paper. Express appreciation for your club members. A picture along with a special thanks is all you need. This is a great way to show you appreciate their efforts.
- Scavenger Hunt: Make up a fun scavenger hunt during a meeting. Use the school so they don't have to leave campus. Your list might include: a math book, a secretary's pencil, a locker sign, a teacher, an empty pop can, etc. Winners get a prize. This can break up the monotony of a meeting and by pairing up the members with other members they don't usually hang around with. It's great for mixing grade level or sex differences among your membership.
- Locker Decorations: At a business meeting, give everyone the same art supplies and 15 minutes. They must design a special locker sign for a member. Or you can have a contest with this idea, it might be easier if you have groups. It gives you less competition to deal with and an easier decision on the best one. Of course, have a prize for the winners or everyone.
- Scrapbook: Keep a scrapbook of all yearly activities with pictures, articles, letters and memorabilia. At the end of the season, bring it to the banquet. Present it to the graduating class as an appreciation of their involvement. This is a great position for a member as a job duty or an elected position. Parent Night:
- At a particular point during the year, organize a Parent Night. It's a great way to get parents and the community involved.
- Telephone Tree: Everyone knows a telephone tree is a must for information but you can use your tree to build enthusiasm and spirit. Send a catchy saying through the phone tree to all squad members just before an important project.

ALL OF THESE IDEAS ARE AN OPTION FOR YOU, THE ADVISOR.
AS AN ADVISOR YOU SHOULD BE CREATIVE AND ALWAYS MAKE
IT FUN FOR YOURSELF AND THE MEMBERS.

