

By Wayne Halm

The Situation

I've got a lot of nieces, from grade school to college and all in between. And I worry about them. I seriously believe that growing up is harder now - that the jump from student to productive adult is wider now. I worry that sometimes the world view presented to the young ladies is somewhat limited. I worry that they maybe left unaware of the options open to them. And of course I try to do something about that.

The Basic Idea

To personally address this problem I sponsor "Career Nights" for the girls. Every three weeks or so I have them all over to listen to a "career woman" talk about her career. This provides the young ladies with both a regular and enjoyable family event to remember and exposure to new career options. The young ladies seem to enjoy the Career Nights, and their parents frequently meet at a restaurant down the street on the same nights - sort of their own family event.

Execution

The details of operating Career Nights can and should vary with the circumstances. However, certain issues will arise in most all situations and need to be addressed. These following issues are identified and some recommendations presented.

How Often - How often should a Career Night be held? It depends on the situation.
Recommendation: Shoot for every three weeks.

Finding Speakers - Finding speakers for Career Nights is not a real problem, but it is a task. Not most but enough will be willing to speak.

Recommendation: Ask women with whom the young ladies can identify. Promise the speakers an attentive group, and well behaved group, a hamburger and coke with the group, a picture with the group, and a

Thank You letter from each member of the group. Let the speaker pick the exact date and time that will be convenient to her.

Crowd Control - While Career Nights are fun evenings for the young ladies, there are limits, it is not a free-for-all, control must be maintained.

Recommendation: Have someone present that the young ladies will obey without question.

Who Should Attend - Attendance should be restricted to the young ladies age 5 to 19 in the family. If that does not produce a large enough group (at least 10), then some but not all of their friends can be invited.

Recommendation: Completely exclude men, boys, and infants from the event. Do not encourage Mothers to attend but if a few want to it's okay.

Invitations - The young ladies must be notified of the location, date, time and requirements of the Career Night - and they must be invited to attend.

Recommendation: Mail a formal letter of invitation to each of the young ladies. In the letter describe the event, give the exact location, date, time, and duration. Also state a dress code, "business attire" might be a good one. Require notification of intention so a head count can be calculated.

Operation - The Career Night event must have a known structure - an agenda -a program.

Recommendation: Print and distribute a one page Career Night Program. Include items like arrival, name tag distribution, introduction, guest presentation, question and answer session, picture taking, refreshment and social period, and a Thank You session. Place a starting time on each.

Thank You Letters - Require the young ladies to each write a Thank You letter to the speaker.

Recommendation: Collect these letters in the days following the Career Night. When

Family Project:

Girls Career Night

the group picture is ready mail the letters
and the picture to the speaker.

Summary

Girls Career Nights can be a fun, popular,
and rewarding Family Project. It provides
and opportunity to introduce new ideas and
reinforce values and lessons. With
repetition and refinement the Career Nights
can become something the young ladies will
always remember.

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