

Planning for a Youth in Mission Meeting

Let's Pray, Plan and Promote

Below you will find some suggestions for planning your meetings. We are a Christian organization committed to growing in the Word and service. Therefore, we recommend that you include prayer, scripture/devotion, fellowship, and service projects in your gatherings. Most of all, find joy in the journey and share the light of Jesus with the youth and the people your group interacts with.

Prayer

- **Pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17).** Pray for and with your co-leader, the parents, your pastor, and the local LWML group.
- Take time at each meeting to pray with and for the group members. Encourage the girls to pray at home for each other, the people you serve, and the missions that LWML supports.

Plan

- Preparation is essential to smooth running and engaging gatherings. Plan each activity thoroughly, but be flexible and have back up materials.
- Some girls may want to plan their own meetings, thereby developing their leadership skills. Other girls may need more guidance and adult directives. Know your girls, work with their gifts, understand their maturity level, and mentor them toward growth in leadership and spiritual maturity.
- Parts of the meeting may include prayer, devotion, ice breaker, food, fellowship, and service. Mix it up and have fun. Consider doing a rotational schedule of meetings – one being a Bible study, the next a service project, and then a social gathering including learning what the LWML is all about. Refer to www.lwml.org for ideas.

(continued next page)



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- Patience is critical. Be gentle with the girls and yourself. Leading is a privilege and not meant to be stressful. Consider finding one or two youth to bounce ideas off of to make sure the activities you plan are that would interest the youth. Sometimes, exposure and encouragement is all it takes to get youth involved in something new.

Promotion

- Personal invitations are the most effective. Be bold and invite every teen girl you meet.
- Having your pastor share this opportunity with the congregation is a great way to get the word out. It also keeps the congregation informed as to what is happening. Plan ahead so your pastor has time to work this into his announcements.
- Ask for permission for making the announcement yourself. Hearing the announcement from someone in addition to the pastor may catch some one's attention.
- Printed material like a church newsletter or bulletin is a good way to get the information home so it can be put on calendars.
- Parental involvement is an intergenerational opportunity. Invite moms and grandmothers to participate in some of the events.



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