

*May our sons in their youth be like plants full grown,
our daughters like corner pillars, cut for the building of a palace.
Psalm 144:12*

Plants Full Grown

a newsletter for Central Plains Mennonite Conference youth leaders
February 2013

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Dear Youth Sponsors of Central Plains,

Today we have a beautiful snow, one of the blessings of winter! Before we know it, we will be in the heat of summer! For many of us, that will mean a week in Phoenix for youth convention. I thought you might appreciate some ideas about how to raise money for your youth group trips for convention and service projects.

Enjoy these final weeks of winter!

Shana

Shana Peachey Boshart

Conference Minister for Christian Formation

Fundraising. How it's done.

Raising money seems to be a perpetual concern for youth groups. Here are some fundraising “best practices” and some fundraising ideas.

Best Practices

- Appoint a fundraising committee of the parents of youth to take leadership of youth group fundraising. Youth sponsors have enough to do without being responsible for fundraising too.
- Raise money all year, every year. This spreads out the work (and the stress!) of raising money. Don't wait until a convention year to start raising money for convention.
- No matter what size your congregation is, think in terms of having 8-10 fundraisers every year.
- Be aware of what other organizations in your community are doing for fundraisers and be sure to do something different.
- Be sure to communicate what your fundraisers are for, especially when raising money from the congregation.
- Provide opportunities for interested donors to give “above and beyond,” such as freewill donation baskets, auctions, or even establishing a fund they can direct their donation to.

- Try to have at least a few fundraisers that bring in dollars from beyond your congregation.

Fundraiser Ideas

- A meal after church. Some common ideas include taco bar, potato bar, lasagna, soup & bread, and favorite ethnic foods. You can also offer a meal in connection to a church meeting.
- Many restaurants invite fundraisers: Chili's, HuHot, Pizza Ranch are some I've heard of.
- Service auction. Youth write down what they are willing to do for folks such as clean house, make a meal, babysit, mow lawn, and the services of each youth are auctioned to the highest bidder.
- Casseroles made to order and delivered frozen in three sizes.
- Selling cans of pop during "coffee hour" or "fellowship time" on Sunday morning.
- Offer a "savings plan" in which each youth's family pledges to give a certain amount every month, and this money goes directly to that youth's individual account.
- Offer "stock certificates" to congregational members who "invest" in the youth group. Find creative ways to give them special recognition and special reports from the youth group.
- Flamingo Insurance — Sell flamingo insurance to church members in various amounts which guarantee that their homes will not be the flocking ground of pink flamingo lawn ornaments. Place as many lawn ornaments as you can on uninsured lawns, and charge a service fee for their removal. To add even more fun, one member can hire a flamingo hit on another member by paying more than what that person bought their insurance for. Provide the opportunity for the insured to increase their insurance amount.
- Sell stuff from a company designed for fundraisers like Youth Group Promotions.
- Google "youth group fundraising ideas"!

Convention news

To prepare your group for convention in Phoenix, I suggest Bible studies on the topic of immigration. Find suggested resources on the [Immigration page of our web site](#). If you find other good resources, please tell me about them!

Be sure to visit the Convention web page: <http://convention.mennoniteusa.org>. It has all the info currently available.

Pages of interest on the convention web site

[Youth Schedule](#), [Speakers](#), [Worship Themes and Texts](#)

To get regular convention updates in your Facebook newsfeed, click the "Like" button on the [Mennonite Church USA Convention](#) page.

Resources for conscientious objection

Did you know that we have a set of resources to recommend for teaching conscientious objection? It would be a good idea to offer a study on this topic every two years. Find advice on what to teach at our web site, <http://www.centralplainsmc.org/co-resources.html>. También hay recursos en español aquí.

Remember...

...There are lots of resources for you at our web site, <http://www.centralplainsmc.org/youth-ministry.html>.

...I've made a list of youth Bible study options for you—[Check it out!](#)

...You can check out books, curriculum, videos and sheet music from the Western District Conference (WDC) Resource Library. Check out their new online catalog, too.



Plants Full Grown is published every other month for Central Plains youth leaders. Please include items from this newsletter in your church bulletins and newsletters. Editor: Shana Peachey Boshart. To subscribe or unsubscribe, email shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org.

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The mission of Central Plains Mennonite Conference is to create settings for our congregations to grow in holistic witness to God's reconciling mission in the world by developing leadership, encouraging fellowship, and promoting lifelong discipleship.