

Seminar 7: Creative Youth Ministry

Thinking Outside the Box



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Module Objectives

- **Assist** the local AY leader in the art of relevant, creative programming, incorporating a comprehensive structure that is aligned with the annual themes of the General Conference Youth Ministries.
- **Learn** to create a well-balanced program that incorporates the physical, social, intellectual, and emotional components that assist the youth in building their faith in Jesus.
- **Adapt** the AYM programs to youth without neglecting the key objectives of the Youth Department as outlined by M. E. Kern, the first world youth director, with the blessings of Ellen G. White



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CREATIVE AYM PROGRAMMING

Ellen White stresses the need for church leaders to find the best and most interesting ways to disciple the youth for Jesus Christ:

“When the youth give their hearts to God, our responsibility for them does not cease. They must be interested in the Lord’s work and led to see that He expects them to do something to advance His cause. It is not enough to show how much needs to be done, and to urge the youth to act a part. They must be taught how to labor for the Master. They must be trained, disciplined, drilled, in the best methods of winning souls to Christ. Teach them to try in a quiet, unpretending way to help their young companions. Let different branches of missionary effort be systematically laid out, in which they may take part, and let them be given instruction and help. Thus, they will learn to work for God” (*Gospel Workers*, p. 210).



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AYM BASIC PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Within the parameters of your personality and that of your group, adapt your leadership style, program format, content, and approach to provide the following:

- Fellowship
- Lifting of spirits
- Sense of participation/involvement
- Sense of enjoyment
- Change/variety
- Relevant religion so that youth can:



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AYM BASIC PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- Relevant religion so that youth can:
- Gain youth-oriented insights into religious beliefs and traditions.
- See and accept the relevance of religious beliefs and traditions.
- Understand the relationship between a Christian and the world.
- Understand the role and real mission of the church.
- Be brought face-to-face with a realistic representation of God's ideal for humankind

Be challenged to establish/maintain a relationship with Christ through His Spirit that brings direction, joy, and genuine peace to the individual's life.



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Know the GC AYM yearly theme.

These can be found on the Youth Ministry website (youth.adventist.org) or from the conference/field youth ministries office. The themes are chosen every five years.

Know the Various types of AY Society meetings:

The **Regular weekly** meeting.

Experience meetings, when opportunity is given to various bands and to individuals to tell the experiences they have had in working for the Master.

Evangelistic meetings; organized and conducted during the AY Week of Prayer or at other times for the purpose of winning the unconverted, reclaiming those who have strayed, and deepening the Christian experience of every member.

Rallies and **Conventions** in which the home AY Society serves as host to visiting AY Societies.



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Congresses and Special Programs, such as:

1. Special programs for youth, with the whole church attending.
2. Special programs for the promotion of some activity of project.
3. Congresses or youth rallies where AY Societies from several territories meet together.

Special programs promoting **Temperance**.

Demonstrations of Conversion Training meetings, that will teach how to begin a conversation that will lead to Bible studies, hold meetings in homes, show slides, distribute literature, sell books, and conduct Revelation Seminars.



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Investiture ceremonies, usually conducted once a year, are a type of recognition service where those completing class requirements are awarded certificates and other items that signify reaching a goal.



Know Key Five Basic Needs of Youth

1. Acceptance and Recognition
2. Affection
3. Success and achievement
4. New experiences
5. Security & Sense of Belonging



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Know the SIX Fundamental AYM Objectives

The six key fundamental youth objectives as outlined by M. E. Kern, the first appointed youth director in 1907, and endorsed by E. G. White is still the fundamental objectives of the AYM that needs to be implemented into the yearly programs:-

1. To raise the level of the devotional life of the youth.
2. To lift the standard of attainment of the youth.
3. To educate and train youth for service.
4. To provide opportunities for outreach and service.
5. To teach the principles of stewardship.
6. To lead youth to discover their individual worth and develop and discover their spiritual gifts.



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CREATING YOUTH PROGRAMMING BY THE “SERVANT LEADER” MODEL

Here is a simple, six-step approach to planning your youth meetings for a whole year. But if you want your youth to learn to be leaders themselves, as we have said over and over throughout this seminar, you need to involve them from the beginning. They would love to help you plan, and their energy and enthusiasm will keep you from being overburdened and burned out.

Each box in the six steps below represents a type of program to be conducted *by the youth* that week. Three to four youth are requested ahead of time to plan and conduct the program, with the assistance of the youth leader to guide them in resources and ensuring the presentation will fulfill the objective to be taught.



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CREATING YOUTH PROGRAMMING BY THE “SERVANT LEADER” MODEL

The success of conducting the programs using the youth will engage them, and motivate them to come up with creative ways to conduct the program. Remember that a youth ministry program should be done **for** the youth, **by** the youth. Our youth have many exciting ways to run programs and this alone will create a buy-in from them because they are involved in owning the program.



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CREATING YOUTH PROGRAMMING

The youth leader at the beginning of the year will gain much success by using the *Servant Leadership Style model* to train their youth to effectively reach a stage where they are competent enough to stand alone and conduct the program with the leader as a supervisor.

The youth leader and their youth need to consult together to find the best style of conducting any given program that will incorporate variety, interest, and a strong biblical foundation. Each week a different box/theme should be conducted using different persons so that throughout the year, all the youth of your group would have had the experience of conducting a program.



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A SIX-STEP AY PROGRAMMING AID

1. **Have an outline** sheet of the **AY Quarterly Yearly** Calendar, with the four or five Sabbaths in the month.
2. **Meet** with your AY Society Council and selected youth, to plan the yearly calendar.



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A SIX-STEP AY PROGRAMMING AID

3. Fill in the major Division/Union/Conference events for the year. For example:

- AY Week of Prayer and Home Coming Sabbath
- AY Celebration Day
- Global Youth Day
- Youth Congress/Camp
- Youth Federation Programs
- Bible Bowl Dates
- Health and Temperance Events
- AY Evangelistic Effort
- Conference Camp meeting
- eWeek of Prayer
- Training Seminars/Other



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A SIX-STEP AY PROGRAMMING AID

4. Proceed to fill in your **Local Church Calendar Events**.
(Remember to invite those dept. heads of your local church to make a presentation to the youth.)
5. Fill the dates, venue, and type of **Social/Recreation events** in the AY Quarterly calendar.

Remember to include the AYM Yearly Theme into each program



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6. Types of AY Weekly Programs



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SP Spiritual Nurture Program

E Evangelism / Outreach

T Training

D Discussion

V Visits

B Bible-Study / Doctrines

R Recreation

C/S Community Service Program

M Mission Outreach Service

Servant-Leader Model

I Do It - They Watch

I Do It - They Help

They Do - I Help

They Do - I Watch

The ultimate goal is

*“that we may present
everyone perfect (mature,
complete, whole) in Christ”
(Col. 1:8)*

and

*“to prepare God’s people for
works of service (ministry),
so that the body of Christ
may be built up”
(Eph. 4:12)*



A SIX-STEP AY PROGRAMMING AID

Once you have filled in all the types of meetings you intend to use in a given quarter, you can brainstorm creative ways to fulfill these objectives, in ways that will interest and please your particular youth.



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A SIX-STEP AY PROGRAMMING AID

1. **Be sure** to plan your quarterly AY Program around the **Six Fundamental AY Objectives of the AY department.**
2. **You may choose** three to four Fundamental Objectives of the AYM each quarter to fulfill. ***Remember to include the AYM Yearly Theme into each program.***
3. **Seek** to plan in detail at least a quarter at a time, filling in all Sabbaths for that quarter. Let your young people help you brainstorm creative and exciting ways to fill in these programs.
4. **Then post** your three-month program on the church notice board.



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A SIX-STEP AY PROGRAMMING AID

5. Be aware, of course, that life can intervene. It may be that some things will change from the original plan, but if this happens, it is a lot less upsetting than if you had no plan at all. If you know where you want to go, you can roll with the waves that occur on your way there.

6. Remember to seek approval from the church board, especially for new efforts or things which will cost money, at the beginning of each quarter.

Try at least one thing per quarter that you've never tried before, and be sure to evaluate together afterward! Make a note of which things worked well, and which did not. Determine if you could do something differently and try again, or if this particular method isn't a good fit for your group. Either is okay.



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Remember:

- **As you plan** for the whole year, consider taking into account the holiday seasons which present ideal opportunities to carry out mission and service activities that will be life-changing to your youth. If you have differing local holidays or festivals, so much the better.
- **Try** to include training weekends, retreats, meal-meetings where you can continue to help those who want to assist you in ministry.
- **Seek** counsel from those that have a passion for the youth.
- **Build** a vibrant youth ministry team is the most important part of creative programming.
- **Learn** to engage your youth in all aspects programming, and you will find new energy and enthusiasm, too.



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