

Creative Ways To Develop A CM Team

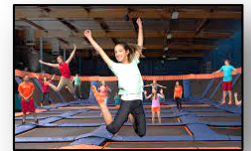
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Today's volunteers crave social connections. They want a ministry environment that is enjoyable and friendly. Gone are the days when adults would serve selflessly without any personal connections in return. The more encouragement and enjoyable encounters we can provide, the longer the CM team members will remain on the team. Here are some ways to build a CM team that is empowering and enjoyable.



Enjoyable Social Interactions At Local Sites

1. **Local City Park** – The team can go to the city park and have a barbeque. This will be an affordable and fun outing for everyone. This is also a time when the leaders can get to know everyone. Talk about how to bring the joy of a barbecue in the park to the CM. Can you have a barbecue during a church service? What can we do for the children who don't have parents who would take them to the park and enjoy a barbecue?
2. **Mini Golfing** – This is a time for the team to bond and have an exciting time together. Mini golf gets competitive, and it will reveal the team's personalities. This will be a great bonding experience for the leadership team. Talk about the standards that God places on us as adults and as children. Are His standards too challenging? What can we do to assist children who have given up, or who feel God's standards are unrealistic?
3. **Going To A Movie** – This is fun because the team can watch a movie together and then they can enjoy some food or coffee as they share their about the movie afterwards. Explore what this movie "says" to you as a ministry team.
4. **Local Trampoline Park** – Let the team have fun and feel like the children to whom they are ministering. Talk about the "ups and downs" that kids face today, and how we can provide stability or connect the children with Jesus in a personal way.
5. **Bowling** – This will be a fun time to connect and just enjoy a hangout with one another. Talk about competition and how today's children need to feel valuable even if they throw a "gutter ball."
6. **Yummy Restaurant** – This is always a good idea. This will be a good time to hangout in a local place and enjoy a bite to eat as a team. Talk about ways to incorporate food in the ministry. Jesus used times of sharing a meal as a "backdrop" for significant ministry moments.



Fun Things To Do At A CM Meeting

1. **Eating Before The Meeting** – Enjoying food together is a great way for fellowship to take place. You can eat and hangout for a few minutes before starting the meeting.
2. **Pre-Meeting Icebreaker** – This can range from having weird questions that the team needs to answer, or a fun, interactive game.
3. **A Different Setting** – Meeting in a different place. Instead of meeting inside, take the meeting to a different place like a restaurant or park.
4. **Incorporate Funny Videos or Pictures** – Before or during the meeting, show a funny video or picture to illustrate or introduce a topic. This will get people to laugh and enjoy the meeting.
5. **Friendly Competition** – Before or during the meeting have a competition with the team. This can be a game or an activity where different teams have to go against each other. The winner will receive a prize.

Hold A CM Team Day Excursion

1. Connect with someone who has a cabin on a lake, in the mountains, at the beach, or in the desert. Spend a day enjoying the setting and spending time together in God's creation. Use this time and setting to brainstorm how to bring the sense of peace that you encounter to the children or ministry environments.
2. Invite each CM team member to write a challenging situation or question on a piece of paper to the event. Put the challenges or questions in a bucket and draw them out to discuss them. Don't try to deal with them all at one time. Spread the discussion of them out throughout the day.
3. Invite the CM team members to prepare to share a story about something that happened during a service that reflects the CM vision or represents what we do in the ministry. Share these stories throughout the day.
4. Use the setting (lake, beach, desert, mountains, etc.) as a foundation for discussions about the ministry and the team members' interaction with the children. What do we do when we feel like we are in a "desert" and we don't feel like ministering to the children? How can we see, hear, and feel God's presence like we do when we see, hear, and feel the ocean or the desert? Is He quiet? Is He stirring?

