



STUDENT WOW

Student Connection Event

Overview

As leaders, it's incredibly powerful when we give our students the investment of our time. We communicate their value and worth when we plan special, fun days and meaningful moments. Planning special times together creates an atmosphere of trust, respect, shared fun and deeper ties of connection.

Preparing for the Moment

The preparation depends on the activity that is decided upon. Some ideas are:

- Scheduled foot washings -a moment of humility showing our servant heart toward our students. Ultimately, we are here to serve them. What better way to show them?
- Cooking classes -whether we lead them or have someone come in that's an "expert", students will enjoy cooking together with us. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn new cuisine, have fun "taste testing", and then enjoy a meal together.
- River rafting - how about getting a community partner to sponsor this event for you and the students? This will be a big splash of adventure!
- Movie Night - Whether it's at the center, your home, or the movie theater! Don't forget the popcorn! What's a movie night without it?
- Craft Time - Find a new craft or one you or a team member are good at, and host a workshop for your students. Add in a fun snack or treat!
- Christian Concerts - connect with a Christian Event Planner or Christian bookstore and see if you can get some tickets to a concert.
- Picnics - A good, old fashioned, blanket on the grass with lots of food is great. But picnics aren't just for summertime. Try a campfire s'mores time, or a bbq in the winter with some hotdogs and hot chocolate.
- Take a hike! We mean this in the best way possible. Find a scenic location and explore some hiking trails. Climb a mountain (or a hill), but do it together!
- Make holidays special - a Thanksgiving dinner, a Christmas party. Include students' families for an added level of connection. Keep an eye out for local holiday community events and go out and have some fun!



STUDENT WOW

Staff Needed

Any staff that are available can be invited to share in a student connection event. Just ensure that at least the minimum number of staff required for student care are present.

Supplies Needed

This depends on what activity you choose. See the ideas above and make a simple and inexpensive list of “the essentials”. Remember, often less is more. Think quality time over how many things you have to have for the experience.

Budget

This depends on the activity you choose. Remember to brainstorm with your team. Think about the center, community, and church resources you already have. Something like a hike can be free. Adding more commercial outings will come with a cost. However, don't discount the power of shared contributions from staff, businesses or others.

Potential Partners

This includes resources like individuals, businesses, etc. that may be able to contribute towards your experience. Whether it is food, event tickets, or craft supplies - if you invite others to partner in WOW experiences, they will come to value supporting the excellence of love and care you are showing your students.

Execution

Choose a day and time. Discuss your ideas with the staff team and invite them to help make your student connection event the best it can be. They will be recipients of the joy as well! Put the event on the calendar, and make a big deal of announcing it to your students. Any opportunity to include students' families in these events will mean a lot. Delegate any bookings, food purchases, etc. among your team and then follow up a week before to make sure everything is ready to go! Then, enjoy your quality time day!