

Starting and Revitalizing Chapters

- **Who's in the community? What's the need?**

With chapter demographics adjusting and maintaining volunteers more challenging, DB HQ is shifting its focus to more regional and national programming for teens, stressing the family local chapter model, and thinking carefully about how to address young adult interest. Each area should identify the needs and demographics of its particular community and be flexible as things change.

- **Kinds of chapters**

- **Family** – Bring them up through the ranks where DB integral part of their lives. Parents need fellowship too.
- **Teens** – Try simple monthly nights mentored by young adults
- **Young Adults / Adults** – Provide inclusive, non-judgmental fellowship that builds a sense of community for both those committed to church and those who are still exploring their place in the Movement. Continue the fellowship for those who've now graduated from DB events and Sunday School.

- **Volunteers – building a support group**

- First off, have fun working together. You deserve the fellowship, too.
- Areas to cover within the chapter structure:
 - Communications/promotion
 - Logistics
 - Finances / Fundraising
 - Chaperones/Mentors
- NLC families/teens - Committed to helping out, and kids organize events
- Have folks choose just 1 event a year to work on, which is manageable.
- Chapter visits from Regional Managers
 - We like to see people in person and get a feel for needs/dynamics. Follow up on one on one conversations and support your outreach.
 - We'll inform folks on upcoming events or new initiatives/focus

- **Church Contacts – supports chapters**

- Help chapter promote events – key grassroots chapter workers
- Parties unify area and better inform them
- In some cases, where area's been dormant, working on this network and having this party can revitalize

- **Build a simple, consistent calendar of successful events**

- Variety – some family, consistent teens, highlight regionals/nationals
- Kick off in the fall with a community-wide event
- OTM's give spiritual meat, bless local churches, and can be simple
- Fundraisers
 - Focus on getting kids to national events and camp
- Service
 - Program-wide, from NLC to local focus. How are we reaching beyond ourselves and sharing CS with others?
- Holidays focus on gratitude, reaching out to others
- National and Regional event participation builds big momentum
- Camp shows / summer camp participation

Be consistent, make it simple, listen for the specific need and stay flexible, spread the work around to make it manageable and work as a team, and use your resources – your Regional Manager and the web. Always collect feedback and fruitage to be sure you're staying on track. Keep inspiration at the heart so everyone sees the value of what makes DB distinct and important!

