



Green Leaders Training

St. Francis Xavier SS, 6 to 8 PM

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

Meeting Minutes:

Common problems we've faced:

- Projects had to be cancelled due to having too many things going at once
- People who are grossed out by garbage don't want to do waste audits
- Too many ideas, can't decide which ones to do
- Lack of commitment, people will come up with ideas but not help to make them happen
- People have a lack of belief, they think it's too hard and don't try
- Teachers slacking on their duties (this could be in terms of recycling, turning off lights...etc.)
- Can't find a way to not interrupt classes in order to collect recycling
- How to advertise other than covering the walls with posters (and wasting paper)

How to solve some of these issues (things that will make a club successful):

- Set deadlines
- Get as much done as a group as possible
 - Don't give as much homework, get it done together
 - This avoids procrastination
- Small committees always work
- For advertising use word of mouth, be sparing and strategic with posters, post them diagonally or in interesting locations, use GOOS (Good On One Side) paper, and announcements

What are some things we should do if starting a brand new club?:

- Get to know your members first
- Come up with a new name if leaders have graduated and you want to redefine your club
- Team building activities, games
 - Say your name and do an action, everyone repeats
 - Human knot
 - This makes people want to come back!
- If you have a lot of people
 - Be critical if there are too many ideas coming at you
 - Make sure that ideas are feasible
 - People who care enough will understand that not everything can be done, and will stick around to help anyway because it's something they care about
- Have an Exec team!
 - This is good for delegation, allows everyone to work well on smaller things
 - Can steer discussion in the right direction, facilitate
- Don't be discouraging
 - If people feel like they are not being heard they will be less likely to continue to participate
 - Ask people to come up with a plan to put their ideas into action. This will allow them to see any flaws in the ideas for themselves instead of being told
 - Question them. "How would you make this work?"

- The people who are less committed and don't always show up are *still* valuable
 - You need a core group of very committed people but the people who show up every so often can still help
 - Assign (or suggest) work according to strengths
 - KNOW YOUR GROUP
 - If they come to a meeting, they are committed for *that* day, and that has value
- Don't run meetings on your own
- Be friendly!
- Put loyalty before the hierarchy.
- Your main job is to inspire
- Setup an email (and/or facebook group)

How to structure an Exec:

- Do not give higher grades higher priority, base who you choose for the Exec on who's shown the most commitment
- Have application, put also ask them to *prove* their competence somehow (speech)
- Do not assign roles, give work to people based on their experience and strengths
- Some people sign up just to have it on their university applications (avoid this?)
- Try to make sure that there is someone else ready to take over when grade 12's graduate
 - Make sure some younger members are very involved and well **trained**
- Make sure you're not "sharing" the responsibility between everyone. Delegation is important to make sure things get done.

Admin Relations:

- Sometimes have uncooperative admin/teachers
- Sometimes asking for an email will get a better response because they can respond on their own time
- Make an appointment! And if they don't show up, hold them accountable!
- Make sure there are no loopholes in your proposals
- For teachers/admin that don't seem to care, take the "My ideas are going to make you look good," angle for your proposals
- Work with, not against your admin

Misc. Ideas:

- If you recycle your uniform (for graduating grade 12's) you get a civvies day
- Remake the old uniforms into new clothes
- Have a clothing swap party (Or a "closet" where kids and drop off and take old clothes, open all year)
- Have a "fact of the day" every morning, then provide solutions
- **Be role models!**
- **Awareness should not just be for the sake of awareness.** Raise awareness *in order to* implement an idea/concept/program/habit/change into the school environment
- Recycling raffle. The more you recycle the more tickets you get. You can ask for prize donations.
- Embarrass people and hold them accountable