

Contests and Outings

Contests

Contests are excellent ways to motivate clubbers. All clubbers enjoy the challenge and excitement of working toward a certain goal.

Planning:

- Given to encourage a specific item
Bringing Bibles, bringing visitors, saying sections, etc.
- Simple enough for all clubbers to understand
Post all rules
Give thought to all options and to all possible outcomes
- Planned so that every clubber has a chance of winning
- Do not always need to emphasize individual competition
Use teams or clubs or handbook groups.
- Interesting to the clubbers involved
- Relevant to the time of year or season
- Integrate with Sunday School or Jr. Church when at all possible
- Make sure that all leaders understand the rules

Make the contests so that it is easy to display who is ahead and where every one is at all times. Ensure that all clubbers get some sort of reward even if they do not win. You want to ensure that clubbers are motivated and encouraged, not discouraged and beaten down.

Rewards:

- Enough to stimulate interest, but not to break the bank
- Given as soon as the contest is over
- Keep parents in mind
- Use to motivate for future contests
- Use items that are special for clubbers

Examples:

You can use food, gifts, lunch with director, special outing, etc. Ask the clubbers for suggestions.

Outings and Activities:

Activities and outings should be done throughout the year so that each clubber is motivated and continues to achieve in their handbook. These activities should be spaced apart. They should also serve a definite purpose just as the contests did. Some purposes include:

- Motivation for achieving in handbook
- Bringing visitors
- Relationship building
- Just having good Christian fun

As with all activities and outings, make sure that you have permission slips. These slips can be a burden to collect and save, but they can be a lifesaver. Insure that you have plenty of parental support before you try some of these activities.

Many other ideas for activities and contests can be found in the Idea Encyclopedias and Fun Group Games for Children's Ministry, which Awana sells.

