

Activities & Programs A Suggested Plan

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Wisconsin



By Past National Vice Commander Dennis Stockfisch Squadron #406

Updated 7/28/01 by Janice Lawler

A Proposed Plan for Squadron Activities

We cannot afford to “play guessing games” with what we think interests our members---now and in the future. Without knowing our members interest, we are shooting in the dark, if we expect them to be participating members of our Squadrons.

The following will provide information so activities may be planned to attract and hold members interests.

The Proposed Plan:

1. To determine members or applicants interests by use of a members survey form.
2. Group completed members survey forms in age/interest order.
3. Develop plans of action for the groups.
4. Try the Action(s) and adjust accordingly

The Action

1. Establish a membership committee – It’s chairman should be the 1st Vice Commander—the Adjutant should be a part of this committee
2. Reproduce a number of the survey forms; use the enclosed as a master.
3. Mail the forms separately or in the members’ dues notice or hand them out at your next meeting.
4. Establish a Squadron Policy, which all new and old members have to fill out and return their Survey form.
5. When all the forms are returned, call a membership committee meeting to review the surveys.
 - a. Sort the forms into age and interest groups.
 - b. Determine, What, When and How particular activities could take place and Who will be the groups leader.

We suggest doing the simple things first, giving them a try, and then proceeding with the more difficult ones. DON’T BE AFRAID OF FAILURE!!! WE ALL CAN LEARN FROM MISTAKES!!! The object is to do something to create the members interests and to keep trying and finally **SUCCESS** will be achieved!!!

You may recall it took Thomas Edison, 3,000 tries to discover the light bulb!! The only people who don’t make mistakes are those who don’t do anything!

Whatever is attempted, must be **SAFE** and in the spirit of **FUN**.

Members Survey

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
Date of birth _____ Age _____
Minors parents name _____
Member ID # _____

To help us to help you, we need to know what your interests are. Check or fill in, those listed and add any that don’t appear.

Sports	X	Indoor	X	Participate in	X	Voice	X
Baseball	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bowling	<input type="checkbox"/>	Patriotic Events	<input type="checkbox"/>	Acting	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basketball	<input type="checkbox"/>	Boxing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Color Guard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Biking	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cards	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drill Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chess	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rifle Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	Others	<input type="checkbox"/>
Football	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cooking	<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Olympics	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Golf	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dancing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Blood Drives	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Hiking	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dart ball	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fund Raisers	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Hunting	<input type="checkbox"/>	Handball	<input type="checkbox"/>	Picnics	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Jogging	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	Others	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Swimming	<input type="checkbox"/>	Others	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Track	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Trap/Skeet	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Volleyball	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Others	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

Hobbies/Crafts		Musical Instruments	

What other organization do you belong to?

Have you held office in other organizations? _____ What Office _____

If additional space is needed, please use the backside of Survey Form.

What day of the week is best for you to attend meetings? M T W T F S S

What time of the day is best for you? _____

What type of activities do you want? _____

Mail Survey Forms To:

Your Calendar of Events:

Right now your Squadron may not have much planned for its members, except for your Executive Board and Squadron meetings. You may think those two activities are not enough to publish your calendar of events. The point, at least your calendar of events is a starter and if used in conjunction with your up and coming Activities Program, Post and Unit happenings, you are informing your members of what is going on or what is coming up. Plus this information is coming from the members of the organization, who is conscious of his membership.

By working the proposed Activities Program and the following program suggestions, there is no reason why your Calendar of Events should not show planned action for many members.

Essentially, some activities do cost money and this must be remembered and recognized when setting up your Squadron Activities. This is where your Squadron budget comes in.

ONE OF YOUR BEST "MEMBERSHIP GETTERS" IS YOUR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

YOUR SECOND BEST "MEMBERSHIP GETTER" IS YOUR MEMBERS SURVEY.

The "BEST" one tells the prospective member, what the Squadron is doing. The action planned and what your Squadron has to offer him.

The “SECOND BEST”, tells the member or prospective member, the Squadron is interested in him, his talents, his interest and that he is needed.

Program Suggestions: Most of the following suggestions have been taken from the Squadron Handbook and The American Legion programs.

July	Planning for the new Squadron year should be well under way. Cooperation/participation with the Post to observe Independence Day, July 4 th and the State Convention.
August	Outdoor activities/athletics, plan Special Olympics programs and events. Ten Ideals Program. National Convention.
September	Labor Day, Citizenship Day, new school year – occupation speakers. Sons of The American Legion Founded 1932
October	Launch Membership Campaign, Columbus Day, Halloween events
November	Veterans Day, American Education Week, emphasize Legionism study program, Thanksgiving Day
December	Kids Christmas parties, visitations to Veterans, charity drives, help the needy.
January	Hold initiations/invite dignitaries, Post/Auxiliary members. Study Citizenship, make community service survey, present Flags.
February	Religious Emphasis Week, Four Chaplains Sunday, Americanism month, observance of George Washington’s and Abraham Lincoln’s birthdays. Study “Patriotism” and “Discipline”, Ten Ideals/Five Star Programs.
March	Birthday of the American Legion, study Legionism-organization and history of the American Legion. Learn of National Programs and local community service programs. Good time to study the Sons of The American Legion and our Preamble of the Constitution.
April	Children and Youth month, emphasis on “Leadership”, “Courtesy” and “Reverence” for the Five Point program/Ten Ideals program. Work on Community Services, help the Veterans.
May	Make preparations for Memorial Day with Post, study emphasis on “Patriotism”, “Comradeship” and “Leadership” for the Five –Point/Ten Ideals programs. Mothers Day. Make preparations for summer time programs /outdoor activities/athletics. Annual reports.
June	Flag Day the 14 th , retirement of unserviceable Flags, Fly Flags in community, time for Father/Son banquet, awards night, Fathers Day, Installation of new Squadron Officers.

Remember, the Sons of The American Legion is made up with many young persons whose interest vary continually, so it will take special effort to learn of these changes and to keep up with the different interest holding activities and programs

While we are concerned with our member’s interest etc., we must bear in mind the purposes, aims and goals of the Sons of The American Legion and do our part to participate in our “Main Stay” National Programs. Most of these “Main Stay” programs or a portion thereof can be worked in, within the actions of many Squadron activities.

The National “Main Stay” programs are: **Americanism, Children/Youth, Community Affairs, Legislature, Rehabilitation and Energy.**

There are National Committee and Commission Contest/ Awards for participation with their projects. They are as follows:

Community Affairs: Yearly Community Affairs Scrapbook Contest.

History Contest: History Scrapbook Contest

Membership: Squadron honor ribbons: Presented to Squadrons who surpass their previous years membership by January 1st of the succeeding year.

Citation of achievement awards: Presented to Squadrons who, as of March 15-17, meet or exceed their previous year’s membership (December 31 total)

Rehabilitation: Annual Rehabilitation Report Contest

National Color Guard: Annual Color Guard Competition contest held at National Convention.

Until we can provide a Program Manual to each Squadron on the above National Programs, you can request further detailed information from the Detachment Adjutant.

We solicit your comments, ideas and further suggestions that will add to these guidelines.

