

Adventurer Club Director
a ministry description for local church leaders

Introduction

Jesus loved little children, and valued them highly. He empathized with the plight of sick children and their parents, and often went out of His way to heal a sick child (Matt. 5:35-43; Mark 7:25-30; Luke 9:38-42). He enjoyed interacting with the children in the temple (Matt. 21:15). When His disciples minimized the value of children by sending away the mothers who were seeking blessings for their children, Jesus reasserted their importance (Matt. 19:14).

Jesus clearly instructed His followers to reach out and minister to children: "He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, He said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me'" (Mark 9:36, 37). The Adventurer Club is one way in which the church can welcome and care for His children.

God designed the family to be the primary place where children would learn to love and obey God. Religious instruction and devotion in the Old Testament centered around the home (Deut. 6:4-9; Ex. 12:21-27). In recent years, families have become increasingly fragmented and the church has taken over more of the spiritual education of children. In the end times, God will "turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers" (Mal. 4:6). The Adventurer Club director will seek to involve parents in the ministry of the Adventurer Club.

Jesus trained His disciples by bringing them apart from the world and into a strong fellowship with Himself and each other. The club atmosphere can create a community of love and help protect children from the negative influences of worldly society.

Jesus chose a child to demonstrate the humility, trust, and lack of self-consciousness found in a member of His kingdom. (Matt. 18:2). He stated that, "From the lips of children and infants (God has) ordained praise" (Matt. 21:16). Our children have a tremendous capacity to witness for the Lord!

Duties of the Adventurer Club Director

The Adventurer Club Director will:

1. Communicate with the church and community in order to promote the club. The conference Adventurer coordinator provides guidance in running the club, and may ask for regular reports to be sent to the conference office. A church Adventurer executive committee (including the pastor, primary Sabbath School leader, church school teachers, parent representatives, and Adventurer Club leadership) will help to set the major policies and goals for the Adventurer club. The church board should be consulted regarding major decisions.
2. Staff the Adventurer Club with caring, well-qualified adults and teens. The Adventurer director will seek out persons who are clearly growing in the love of Jesus, love children and work well with them. The director will see that each staff member is trained carefully and given a job which is appropriate to the interests of the club.
3. Organize the Adventurer Club by working with the executive committee and staff to identify what goals and objectives need to be accomplished in the coming year. The director and staff may choose the general types of activities to take place. Staff are assigned to lead out in each area. Then a budget is set up, based on the income from church appropriation, club dues, and fundraising. Finally, an amount is designated for each area of the club to spend.
4. Plan the club meetings and yearly calendar. Make a schedule of activities for each regular club meeting, and a yearly calendar which may include regular club meetings, special activity nights, family nights, Adventurer Family Network meetings, and yearly events such as Induction and Investiture.
5. Evaluate how well the club is reaching its goals. Take time at staff meetings to discuss ideas and concerns. Use what is learned to create a better, more effective club.

As Adventurer Club director, you will be ministering to children in grades one through four. These young "Christians-in-training" are active, fun-loving, little people who have the capacity to truly love Jesus. As you discover the needs of the children and families in your church and community, you will acquire a vision of what the Lord wants to do through your Adventurer Club. You will seek to bring together staff and programming to help the children become more closely acquainted with the love of Jesus and His plans for them. This will help them acquire the habits, skills, and knowledge to live for Him in today's

world. God has ordained parents to be their primary spiritual leaders, and you will seek to include and support them in every way you can through the Adventurer Club.

Resource Materials

The following resources are recommended for your ministry. You can purchase these by calling AdventSource (800-328-0525), the Adventist Book Center (800-765-6955) or your local Christian bookstore.

Adventurer Activity Books and Parent Manuals are for each grade level. They contain activity sheets for both the child and adult to complete each of the curriculum activities required for earning the Adventurer class pin.

Come Meet Jesus Video Series. These videos were used during NET '98 and Net '99 and would be great for Adventurer Club activities, children's church, children's Sabbath School, or places where children need to be entertained during adult meetings.

How to Help Your Child Really Love Jesus, by Donna Habenicht. A child development specialist explains how children develop spiritually and offers practical suggestions on how you can help children establish a lasting friendship with God.

Margie Asks, Why Do People Have to Die? by Laura Rocke Winn. The great controversy and the state of the dead are both covered in this delightful story book for ages six through nine.

The Adventurer Staff Manual is the main resource for directing the Adventurer Club. A section on club organization contains all the information you need to start a club, plan activities and schedules, and organize staff. It describes the Adventurer uniform, and gives information on many other aspects of club organization. Pins, patches, certificates, uniforms, and awards described in the manual are all available through your local conference Adventurer office.

Your local library, school, and bookstore have materials for you to borrow or purchase which may help in running the various aspects of your club.

Visit AdventSource On-Line at www.adventsource.org/adventurer for a complete list of the latest resources available for local church leaders. You can place an order or request a catalog by calling 1-800-328-0525. For information about additional resources and answers to your questions call the Adventist Plusline at 1-800-732-7587 or visit them on-line at www.plusline.org.