

A HOW-TO GUIDE FOR MODERN WOODMEN VOLUNTEER LEADERS

Impact

M A G A Z I N E

FALL 2019

THE TEAM ISSUE

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Huddle up:

4 tips to grow
your team p. 10

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connect with **STAFF**



From left: Ann Held, Melissa Gottwalt, Hannah Glaub and Helene DeVine make up the Fraternal Training and Innovations team.

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." – African proverb

How does the sentiment above relate to your role as a fraternal leader?

Sure, it might feel easier to plan chapter or youth club activities by yourself. It may even require less effort, since you're not waiting on others or trying to coordinate schedules. But by going it alone, **you may be missing key opportunities for you and your members.**

Here's why it's important to involve others when planning activities:

- **More ideas.** More heads are better than one, right?
- **Wider network.** Members of your chapter board or parents of your youth club members know people you don't. They can help you make new connections in the community.
- **Better experience.** Think about how great you feel when an activity you planned

comes to life. Make sure other members have that same involvement and ownership in the event!

- **More fun.** Let's face it – it's just more fun to work with other people than to do everything on your own.

This issue of Impact is all about teams. Ask yourself ...

- How can you incorporate a team approach with your chapter or youth club?
- Are you involving your youth club members and their parents in the planning process?
- Is your chapter board actively engaged throughout the year, or only at your annual board meeting?
- How can a team help lighten your load, and enrich their lives?

It really is better together!

Melissa Gottwalt

Melissa Gottwalt

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Share a time when
you worked as a
team to accomplish
a common goal.



Tammy (center) with Britney and Amber.

"Our department helped a food bank fill backpacks with food for school children. We all had a great time. We were able to talk while working side-by-side, and that helped us learn more about each other. Another perk of working in a team setting: it just makes everything go so much faster!"

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Frequently asked questions

If I can't find other members to get involved, can I just hold a service project with my family?

Service projects are designed to bring various members together for a volunteer activity – and the goal is to continue to reach new people. We recommend planning projects far in advance so there's adequate time to invite all chapter or youth club members.



Can I hold two activities (e.g., social event and educational event, social event and Hometown Hero ceremony) at the same place and time?

Each event should be held separately to be recognized as separate chapter events. The goal is to plan activities that are meaningful to members. By keeping events distinct, they retain their individual value.



Can I just call members to invite them to events?

Ideally, no – but they can be a good follow-up for some. Phone invitations can be ineffective and time-consuming; some members are wary of unknown phone numbers, and it's easy to accidentally skip members in larger chapters or youth clubs. Use more formal invitations whenever possible, and mention upcoming events at all member activities.



share THIS

Share this great benefit

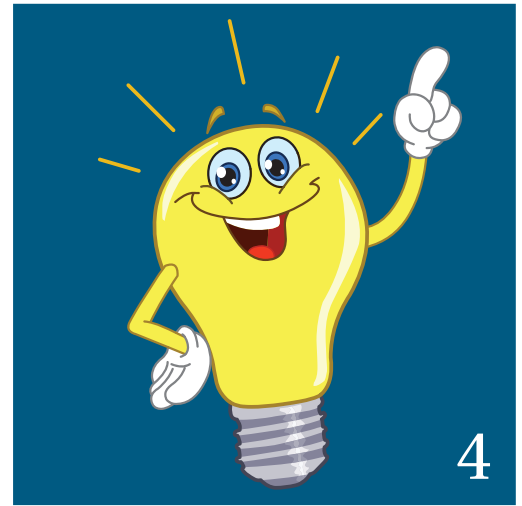
Final Wishes

The planning topic no one wants to think about

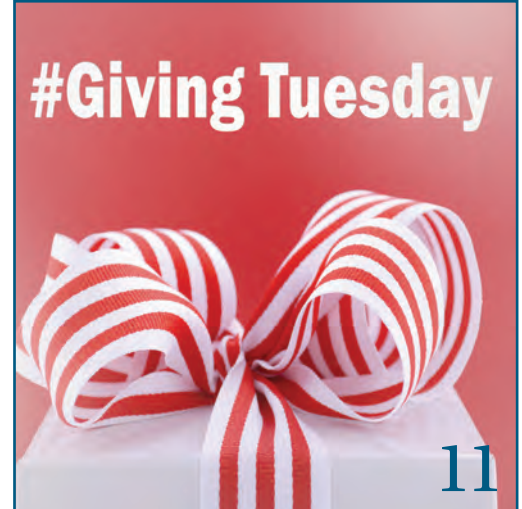
No matter what stage of life you're in, Modern Woodmen's Final Wishes site for members can be an invaluable resource. It helps you give your family a full, clear view of your end-of-life wishes. Share what type of burial you'd like, where important financial documents are stored and more.

The online resource walks you through topics like legal considerations, leaving a legacy and sharing your wishes with those closest to you.

Learn more at member.modernwoodmen.org



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#Giving Tuesday

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Plan a project

Ideas for winter and the 2020 fraternal campaign.

Ideas, ideas, and more ideas!

Impact Institute attendees share, learn and grow

The *location, location, location* of a September Impact Institute for fraternal leaders in the Southeast was scenic Gatlinburg, Tennessee, but the focus was *ideas, ideas and ideas!* From ideas for unique member events to ideas to make planning easier, attendees learned from Fraternal Department staff and each other.

Here are some snapshots from the event. Adapt these ideas for your Modern Woodmen chapter or youth service club, and share your results on the Modern Woodmen Fraternal Leaders Facebook page!



Chelsie Barnett (left) and **Donna Bare** (right), youth club leaders in Elizabethton, Tennessee, shared that her young club members (aged birth-6) have **volunteered at the local Kids Like Us Community Learning Center**.

Run by volunteers and serving children with different abilities and disabilities, the center offers a variety of free classes on grooming, cooking and other aspects of daily life. Chelsie's group enjoyed hands-on crafts with children at the center.

As Chelsie says, "fraternalism is community." She likes to **help club members learn about the community** by being around other kids and doing different activities that they may not have the opportunity to do with their parents.



Chief Fraternal Officer Jill Weaver and Chapter Activities Coordinator Clyde Kinder.



Mike White, a youth club leader in Dalton, Georgia, shared that his club members prepared snacks and showed up at a local fire station to **surprise firefighters with treats** and thank-you messages for their service.

He feels it's important to show kids the importance of helping others and to have fun doing it. He suggests leaders **let the kids do a lot of the event planning** and make sure it's enjoyable for them to be there.

Vera Ann Myers, Greeneville, Tennessee, is an activities coordinator for three chapters. She shared a recent favorite activity for members near to her heart as a farmer: “We went to a **pick-your-own berry patch**, which was really fun,” she says.

Beyond the fun of picking blackberries, chapter members enjoyed **getting out to visit a place they'd never been**. Those who didn't eat the delectable fruit on site went home and made pies, cobblers and other treats.



“

Everything begins with an idea



”



Amy Bergman, Cartersville, Georgia, serves as both a chapter activities coordinator for adult members and as a youth club leader for teenagers.

She shared that her chapter members have **toured wineries** in north Georgia and **visited an alpaca farm** for social activities.

Her youth club members **research service project ideas online**, and recently planned efforts to **pack birthday bags for kids in need**. Amy and her club members packed bags with cake mix, decorations and other birthday goodies, and worked with school counselors to get them to children who won't otherwise get birthday celebrations. Club members also donated birthday bags to local children's services authorities.



Karen Smith, a youth club leader in the Foote region, donates supplies for students in need.



Lori Wilson (left), activities coordinator and youth club leader and **Shirley "Louise" Jones** (right), youth club leader and district agent in the Conner region shared smiles and ideas at the Impact Institute in Gatlinburg.

Chapter members come together for Oklahoma flood relief

A creative, impactful project planned by a fellow fraternal leader

BROKEN ARROW, OKLAHOMA

Chapter 10475 supports repairs for flooded sports complex

When Oklahoma fell victim to devastating flooding this past June, many community staples were left in disrepair. Elizabeth Woods and her chapter saw an opportunity to step up.

"The Indian Springs Sports Complex is one of the largest complexes in the state," explains Elizabeth. The complex is also home to the Broken Arrow Soccer Club. "My three kids play soccer here, and so do several other Modern Woodmen members. It's a huge part of our community."

So, the chapter members got together to support the complex's clean-up efforts and get the fields ready for the fall sports season.

HOW TO: First and foremost, Elizabeth got in touch with the director at the sports complex. She knew it was important to find out what they really needed, rather than moving forward with things the chapter *thought* they'd need. Because the complex had been so damaged, it took time for the director to sort through their needs and work on a schedule for repairs.

Together, Elizabeth and the director determined the best way for the group to help: by helping volunteers during a huge community clean-up day. The chapter members looked around for the best deals on snacks and water for the volunteers. Working with Sam's Club and Costco helped the group buy in bulk, saving precious funds.

The group was able to get their hands dirty, too. "We helped one of the volunteers put flags on 100 flag poles," says Elizabeth. "That made me proud!"

WHAT WORKED: Taking time to shop around for the best prices helped the group get the most bang for their buck. While it would have been easier to have supplies delivered, Elizabeth saved over \$200 by picking them up



Chapter members in Oklahoma showed awesome teamwork as they distributed water at a community clean-up day for a flooded sports complex.

at the store. She also accounted for her available funds in advance, which helped her get adequate quantities of the requested items.

NEXT TIME: The group was small but mighty – next time, Elizabeth would try to get even more members involved. The group also had to stay mobile, taking several trips for ice to keep the water cool for the volunteers.

THE IMPACT: "The Broken Arrow Soccer Club is where many generations have come to play, and I felt honored to be a part of it," says Elizabeth. "I loved seeing the joy on my members' faces as they went to all the fields and offered snacks and water to the volunteers."

2020

Class of



– scholarships open Nov. 1!

Apply by Feb. 7

Do you have a teen member graduating high school next year, with plans to attend college next fall? They may be eligible for Make An Impact Scholarships.

How it works

- **Regions.** Modern Woodmen divides the nation into six regions with an approximately equal number of eligible member students. Twenty-seven students from each of the six regions will be awarded scholarships.
- **Scholarships awarded.** In total, 198 scholarships (totaling \$450,000) will be awarded, divided as follows:
 - 12 scholarships at \$10,000
 - 12 scholarships at \$7,500
 - 12 scholarships at \$5,000
 - 12 scholarships at \$2,500
 - 150 scholarships at \$1,000
- **Two paths.** Member students can be eligible for one of two scholarship paths:
 - Volunteer experience + academic achievement.** 48 students (eight from each region) will receive these scholarships, which range from \$2,500 to \$10,000, each year.
 - Volunteer experience.** 150 students will be awarded these \$1,000 scholarships each year.

Learn more at member.modernwoodmen.org. Click Benefits, then Make An Impact Scholarships.

Apply now at scholarsapply.org/impact. Applications close Feb. 7, 2020.

Gather up for activity planning

Two fun ideas for group brainstorming

Fall is a great time to check in with your members, youth club parents or chapter board. With 2020 on the horizon, take time to reflect on the past year and plan for the coming one.

And, of course, *make it fun!*

Here are two ideas to jazz up your yearly planning meeting.

Throw a vision board party

A vision board is a way to visually create and share goals. You and your team start with poster boards, then decorate them with ideas and inspiration for your year.

Cut out images and phrases from magazines, use construction paper and ribbons to add flair, clarify and decorate with pens and markers, and tape or glue everything together. Ask each attendee to bring craft materials (and maybe some snacks) to share.

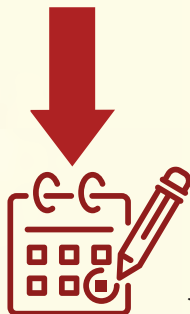
This could be a fun way for your team to plan goals and activities for 2020 – or it could be a social activity for your chapter or youth club.

Host a potluck

Nothing brings members together quite like food. For an end-of-the-year meeting, consider hosting a “Friendsgiving” potluck dinner in November or December.

Each attendee can bring a dish to share. When everyone has loaded up on food, take time to talk about your chapter or youth club. All the while, you’ll enjoy everyone’s company (and maybe grab a few recipes).

With a Friendsgiving theme, guests can also take turns sharing the fraternal moments they’re thankful for from the past year. It’s a great way to motivate and inspire your planning for next year.



Save the date!

Jan. 11 is National Vision Board Day.

Year-end discussion checklist



- What worked well in 2019?
- What could have been done differently or better?
- Did you set a goal for this year? Did you achieve it?
- What are your goals for this coming year? How do you plan to achieve them?
- Is there a theme you want to focus on in 2020?
Hint: Flip to Page 11 for a sneak peek of our 2020 fraternal campaign!
- What activities are members interested in? What activities are *you* interested in?
- Who should you honor as a Hometown Hero?
- Who (or what) should your next Matching Fund project benefit?
- What can you change or try to get new and inactive members involved?
- What new thing should you make a point of trying this year? (Think outside the box!)

"Paperless is a great way to go!"



Your feedback on the online attendance tool

Have you tried the attendance tracker for fraternal activities yet? We asked members of the Modern Woodmen Fraternal Leaders closed group on Facebook to share their feedback. Here were your favorite benefits.

Paperless

Paperless is a great way to go! It's better for the environment, and now I don't have to go through the process of scanning and sending the paper sheets.
- Luanne

The app is working great for my chapter events. I love being able to record attendees without getting out a piece of paper for them to sign.
- Greg

Always on hand

Love this - everyone has a phone, so it'll always be available!
- Jody

It's one less thing to carry to events.
- Mary

Saves time

Love the app! Having all members' info saved is such a timesaver.
- Hannah

This app is the best improvement to the activities reporting process I've seen yet! It'll save leaders valuable time when managing and reporting attendance.
- Lisa

Anything that saves time and materials is great in my book! I love having all the information in one place.
- Angela S.

This is going to save me so much time!
- Angela A.

Easy to use

Now members don't need to write their signature, which always feels like they're "signing off" on something. The tool is easy to use, and it auto-fills your reports.
- Acacia

It's faster and easier to use. Once you start using it, most members who come to events will be preloaded. You can even enter people who RSVP beforehand, then add or delete during the event.
- Jessica

It's easy to use and integrates well with reporting. I bring my iPad to activities and log people in as they arrive.
- Lisa

Thanks for your feedback!
Congratulations to **Jessica Austin**, who won an iPad in our Attendance Tool Feedback Contest!



Ready to try the tool?

Find it on imakeanimpact.org, under the top drop-down menu. Check out the training video under Training Materials > Support Materials.

4 tips to grow your team

How to recruit talented team members

Working as a team sounds great, but how do you find team members?

Whether you're an activities coordinator who needs a chapter board or a youth club leader who would love input from young members or their parents, here are some tips to build your team.

1 Tip 1: Pay attention to the members who attend your events. Who is really active in your chapter or club? Who would make a good team member? Look for qualities that balance yours, or strengths that might be missing from your current group.

Bonus tip: Some skills to look for: being connected to the community, fun-loving, adventurous, passionate, reliable, organized and creative.

2 Tip 2: Find people who are already involved. You might know people who have a passion for making an impact, like teachers, PTA parents, students looking for community service opportunities, coaches and small-business owners.

Bonus tip: If someone seems like a good fit but is not a Modern Woodmen member, remember that it's easy to join – just connect them with a local Modern Woodmen representative!

3 Tip 3: Start the conversation. Once you find good candidates, talk to them about the impact they can make as a team member. If you identified a particular quality of theirs that would add value to your team, tell them about it – and why you think their participation could make a difference. Remind them that they'll have input on which activities your chapter/ youth club does, including which organizations the group supports.

Bonus tip: Share the chapter board brochure as a starting place. Find it on imakeanimpact.org > Training Materials > Support Materials.

4 Tip 4: Be clear about the commitment. Let the member know what to expect if they sign on as a chapter board member: probably 1-2 meetings per year and monthly chapter/club activities. (So, not too demanding!) If they're still on the fence, invite them to sit in on a chapter board or youth club planning meeting, and review the chapter board meeting agenda template with them in advance. That way, they know what to expect.

Bonus tip: As a trial run, ask them to help out at your next activity. They can lend a hand with setup and stick around after to discuss what went well, what could have gone better and how the team can prepare for the next activity.



My team is meeting tomorrow! What should we talk about?



Try the chapter board meeting agenda template! It works for chapter boards or youth club team meetings. You can either type your notes/ minutes directly in the document (make sure to use the "Save As" function to keep the blank template for next time) or print it off and hand-write your notes. Find it at imakeanimpact.org > Training Materials > Support Materials.



Want more teambuilding tips? Join the closed Facebook group for fraternal leaders! Search for "Modern Woodmen Fraternal Leaders" on Facebook and request to join.

Upcoming holidays



Nov. 28: Thanksgiving.
Throw a "Friendsgiving" party with your members or chapter board.



Dec. 3: Giving Tuesday.
Host a fundraiser to support a local cause.



Jan. 11: National Vision Board Day. Get members together to plan 2020 goals – either individual ones or chapter/youth club ones.



Feb. 29: Leap Day. Start a Leap Day tradition with your chapter or youth service club, like an educational event about the history of this unique holiday ... or frogs!

Want a sneak peek of the 2020 fraternal campaign?

Here's a clue: a project idea that fits the theme!

Feb. 7: Night to Shine

2020 marks the sixth anniversary of the first Night to Shine event, which offers a fun-filled prom experience for teens with disabilities. In 2019, chapter 105 and youth service club 16709-4 created a Respite Room for parents and caregivers to relax and connect with each other.



See photos from
chapter 105 and youth
service club 16709-4





For the good of the team

Making an impact – together

“People who work together will win, whether it be against complex football defenses or the problems of modern society.” – Vince Lombardi

When you work with others toward a common goal – to do good in the community – you can make a much bigger impact than if you work alone. Why is that?

It’s because other people bring new perspectives, skills, experiences and ideas to a project. When you combine your efforts, you gain the benefits each person provides. You become stronger as a team.

Highlight the passages in this issue that stuck with you – planning tips, activity ideas, inspirational messages and anything else. Share them with your members at your next chapter board meeting, youth club planning meeting or fraternal activity.

The more you share, the more your teammates will share. And when the team comes together, you can do some incredible work.

How can you foster teamwork among your members?

Use the space below to write your ideas.
