Social Potential Innovative Club Enhancement "SPICE"

Presented by District Governor Sabrena Lopez and Subregion C International Trustee Cody Schara

What is a club social?

A club social is an event that isn't necessarily focused on service or leadership, but is more focused on club communication, doing a unified event or getting to know other members better. Club socials are a great way for members to meet others through a group activity. Not only are you encouraging members to communicate with each other, but a club social can create a lasting memory and help develop friendships that strengthen the "community" aspect of a club.

What's the point of club socials when people communicate at events?

While service events are the core of Circle K clubs, socials are good ways to focus more on club unity than on service hours. Socials allow Circle K Clubs to expand from just an extracurricular event to a true family of people who like to do many different things together. Plus, club socials are great ways to encourage CKI members to bring their friends.

When should I have one? How big are socials?

Have club socials all the time! Members love being appreciated, and club socials are a great way to thank them for all their hard work by having a bit of fun!

Generally, club socials are very effective in the beginning of the year, as a way to recruit new members. However, club socials are also perfect in the winter seasons (when it may be more difficult to find service events) and at the end of the school year (as a sort of "thank you" retreat).

Organizing a social

Regardless of the size of the event, all socials require some amount of planning, organizing, and publicizing. This is especially true for larger socials or socials that require any money of money, simply because there are more people to organize things for. Below are the core "steps" to organizing a social.

Deciding what to do

- Figuring out what social do is clearly an important part in actually doing the social! Taking things like weather, money, size and intended purpose are important in actually deciding what kind of social you will be organizing. For example, it would be very difficult to organize a snow ball fight for April if there's no snow. Similarly, hosting a 300 person event for a club of 20 or 30 might cause problems in the long run.

Delegating tasks and setting goals

- This is a crucial step in the organizing process, since work should be distributed between all the organizers. If one person were to take charge of everything, s/he might not be able to get everything done in time.

Fundraising/Finding sponsors

- During this time, the organizing group should also iron out the details of what the social should be like, when the social should be, where the social should be, and overall goals of the social. Are you trying to recruit members, or is the purpose to create some e-board bonding moments?

- Securing money for your fundraiser is the next step in organizing a truly successful event. Expensive socials may be a lot of fun, but the bill won't be if you can't pay up!

- Figuring out the total cost of the social, and where the money is coming from is crucial in this step. Are you having club members pay? Will you fundraise for the money? Are you getting a school grant?

- Some venues are willing to provide a discount because you are a community service organization, or a college club, so always check out all your options

Publicity

- In order for people to come to your social, they have to know about the social. Announcing socials during club meetings are a great step, but make sure that members are continually reminded! Having a facebook event, using posters and sending email reminders are a great way to keep your members clued in.

- Publicizing is especially crucial if you are trying to recruit members to your club using the social. Publicizing outside of the club will definitely help you get more members to the social.

The Event

- All of this planning would be for nothing if you didn't have the actual event yourself!

- During the event, you should be making sure everything runs smoothly, staying to your organized schedule and making sure that there are more than enough organizers to make sure everything stays on time. For example, if you have a raffle or drawing, make sure it starts the time you say it will. People are depending on you to keep to the schedule, and you don't want to disappoint!

Reviewing

- The last step to any event is evaluating its success, seeing if you made your goal(s) and making note of things to remember for future socials. What parts of the social were big hits? Where did you have room to improve?

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Hosting Fun Meetings!

Need some tips and tricks to run a fantastically fun meeting? Well here are some ideas you can use to bring your meetings to life!

1) Organize an interactive powerpoint (possibly with Questions and Answers) that members can view and get involved with.

2) Have fun ice breakers at the beginning of the meeting!

3) Do "Happy/Sad Jar" at the end of the meeting. Happy/Sad Jar is a time where anyone can put in a little bit of change to say something that happened that was happy (or sad, or contemplative). This not only can help raise money, but allows members to speak up!

4) Have food! This is the easiest way to bring people to a meeting. Even if it is something as small as candy or cookies, those members will come running in if they hear you have food!

5) Show a video! In CKI, there are plenty of videos, including membership recruitment videos, videos about International Preferred Charities (like a video on The ELIMIANTE Project), and much more. Use these to keep your members alive and awake.

6) Hold a service project at the end of the meeting. We're a community service organization, right? We should probably be doing community service thenJ

7) Ask various guest speakers to come in and talk. You can ask your Sponsoring Kiwanis Club's President to speak about the community, or a professor can speak on a specific topic. No matter what it is, it's nice to see a fresh, friendly, new face.

8) Hold a skype call to members from another club. Perhaps you want to show that CKI is more than just your club: it's an international community of clubs working together. Ask a president of another club (whether near or far) to skype in so that he or she can talk about service projects that a different club is doing!

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Ice Breaker Ideas

Ice breakers are a great way to get members to meet each other and learn each other's names! Organize an ice breaker at the beginning of every meeting, and you'll be sure to have a good time! Below is a list of fun and interactive ice breakers that will get your members goin'

1) **Ninja:** Have everyone stand in a circle. On the count of three, everyone will jump back and do a "ninja pose." Each person will make **one** motion that attempts to hit another individual in the hand. This is considered a "strike." The person being stricken can do one motion to avoid the strike. If the strike is successful (and the attacker hit someone else's hand), the hand is out of the game. If an individual has two hands out, they are out of the game. The person who is striking rotates in a clockwise motion, with each person having one chance to strike. Last one standing wins!

2) **Train Wreck:** Have everyone stand in a circle, and have them all take their shoes off. One person should stand in the circle (with their shoes not in the circle, and not around the circle). That one person must introduce himself or herself, and say something about themselves (ex: My favorite color is blue). If it applies to other people (ex: if other people's favorite colors are blue), they, and the person in the middle, must step out and find somewhere else to stand (that is not adjacent to them). One person is always left without a spot, and he or she must be the next one to introduce himself and say something.

3) **Toilet paper:** Have everyone come into the room and, as they come in, they must take at least one sheet of toilet paper. Once everyone in the room has settled, each person should say a fun fact about themselves, equivalent to the number of sheets of toilet paper they have taken. For example, if a person took 3 sheets of toilet paper, they must say 3 things about themselves. This can also be done with skittles and other candies.

4) **Beach Ball:** Throw a beach ball that is covered in questions (written on it with sharpie). The person who catches it has to answer the question that is closest to their left thumb. Then, he or she throws the ball back into the crowd.

5) **Bring me this:** Split the club into two or four groups. Then, the president (or the officer organizing the ice breaker) shouts, "Bring me _____." The object can be anything, including an empty wallet, something with a CKI logo, or even another officer. Keep shouting for several things, and the group with the most points at the end of the night wins!

6) **Two truths and a lie:** This is a pretty basic one. Have one person tell three facts about themselves (two being true, and one being a lie). The rest of the audience has to guess which one is a lie. The one who guesses it right first, wins!

7) **Human Knot:** Have everyone get together in a circle and hold their hands out. Each person must hold hands with another person (not adjacent to them). Then, try to "unravel" this knot without breaking hand-holding!

8) **Scream:** Everyone must get in a circle and look down at the ground. When one person (the organizer) says "up," everyone must look up at one individual in the circle. If that person is looking at them too (making eye contact), both individuals must scream and are henceforth eliminated. The game goes on until there are one or two individuals left.

9) **Tag:** If you're outdoors, organize a game of tag or capture the flag to get everyone pumped up for service! Steal the bacon is another really good outdoors activity.

If you'd like a copy of this workshop, please feel free to contact Sabrena at (sabrenalopez@gmail.com) or Cody (codyschara@gmail.com).