

First Activity Kit



Fraternal Financial Services

Youth Service Clubs

Welcome!



Thank you for exploring the opportunities Modern Woodmen offers through youth service clubs. You'll enjoy the rewards of working with kids and helping the community.

Supplies will be provided.

Before your first activity, you will receive a box of supplies and your *Leader's Manual* which describes the various programs available to the youth clubs and how to make Merit Club. If you have any questions, please call 1-800-447-1289, Ext. 7327.

Tentative first activity agenda.

Here is a sample agenda for the first meeting. This is just a guide; adapt as necessary for your needs and preferences. (Agenda based on a one-hour activity.)

1. Welcome everyone.

- Introduce yourself as the leader, and invite each of the kids (and their parents if in attendance) to introduce themselves too.

2. Say the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Pledge reflects the patriotic nature of the clubs, and it's a simple way to add some formality to your activity/meeting structure.

3. Say the Modern Woodmen of America creed. The creed reads,

*“There is a destiny that makes us brothers;
None goes his way alone;
All that we send into the lives of others
Comes back into our own.”*

Or you might want to recite the creed at the end of the activity. It can be a nice way to conclude.

4. Talk generally about the club.

Mention:

- Modern Woodmen youth service clubs are focused on:

- (1) volunteering
- (2) patriotism
- (3) education
- (4) fun!

- As a club member, each child should try to help others and make the community a better place. In simple terms, that's what fraternalism is all about.

- The club will meet monthly.

- Club members are invited to bring friends. Guests are welcome to visit three activities before becoming members.

5. Suggest some activities that the club could do as a group, and find out what interests the children. You could tell them about:

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- Cleaning up trash at the park (as part of the Litter Patrol program).
- Visiting the nursing home and getting to know the elderly (as part of the Remember When program).



- Taking a field trip (as an Educational Tour program).
- Planning a special party for the children and their families (as a Family Affair activity).

Ask the kids if they have any additional ideas.

6. Mention some of the cool stuff kids can get by volunteering and being active with the club, including:

- T-shirts for volunteering
- A special prize (jacket, blanket, vest) for attending all club activities
- Awards for volunteering (baseball cap, pins, certificates)
- Copies of a kid's newsletter, *Clubhouse!*
- Other special prizes and gifts on occasion

7. Transition into an activity.

A good volunteer project for the first meeting would be making cards for the veterans. You can buy paper, stickers and any other supplies; just be sure to keep your receipts. And remem-

ber, by doing this project you're already on your way to earning Merit Club credit; make 12 cards for one point for the Remember Our Vets program.

8. Distribute snacks. Try to keep things simple. Consider cookies, snack cakes, fruit bars, popcorn, crackers and cheese, ice cream bars, etc. (Once again, keep your receipts for purchases.)

9. Lead the kids in playing a game or two if time allows. Traditional birthday party games work well. See game ideas on the back of this page.

10. Conclude by letting the kids know when and where the next activity will be. Encourage each child to bring a guest next time. Make sure every child leaves with some kind of prize or souvenir from your box of supplies.

Things to do after your meeting.

1. Fill out the report form. If you need any help, please call 1-880-447-1289, Ext. 7432 or 7643. Be sure your report form is mailed promptly after your meeting, because all reports need to arrive in the Home Office within 30 days of the activity. Also, be sure to send receipts for purchases; and write on the receipts how the club used the supplies.

2. Order supplies, using the *Club Supplies and Souvenirs sheet*.

3. Plan a club activity for next month. Schedule the time, date and place.

4. Complete any necessary application forms for your next activity, and send those forms to Modern Woodmen's Home Office. Application forms must be completed for activities in which the club receives reimbursement from Modern Woodmen. (Family Affair, Plant A Tree, Remember When, etc.)

Five fun game ideas

Kids love games and prizes. You'll like these games because they:

1. require very little skill on the part of the children
2. are easy for you to set up and conduct
3. can vary based on the ages and abilities of the kids
4. provide lots of fun, laughter and smiles

Prizes are included in the box of supplies.

Prize hunt. Kids love Easter egg hunts, so why limit the fun to once a year? Hide the prizes indoors or outdoors. Pick spots that are easy for younger kids, and make it more challenging for older kids. For fairness, you may want to set a limit for the number of prizes each child can collect.

Dig for buried treasures. Meeting at a home or park that has a sandbox? Why not bury these small prizes in the sand and give each child a chance to uncover his/her prize with sandbox-sized shovel or a big spoon. Encourage other kids to watch and cheer. Great for tiny tots.

Pass the prize. Put the prizes in small paper bags or wrap them another way. Ask the children to sit in a circle, and pass one prize to each child. In the next column is a script you can read. Each time the leader reads the word "right" or "left" the children must pass the prize in the corresponding direction. When you're finished reading, the children get to open the package they're holding and keep that prize.

Daniel was **right**, his sister was **right**, and his brother was **right**, when they made the decision to attend a Modern Woodmen youth service club meeting.

Sometimes Daniel and his brother and sister had felt **left** out of other activities. But with the youth service club they felt **right**, good and involved.

With youth club volunteer activities they were able to learn how to do the **right** things for others.

In fact, at the club meeting they made cards to be **left** at the hospital and treats to be **left** with a senior citizen.

At that meeting, Daniel said, "This is all **right**!"

His youth club leader said **right** back to him, "You've got the **right** stuff, kiddo! I'm so glad you're part of this club!"

Right then and there Daniel knew he liked the club and the leader. And that thought never **left** him.

In fact, he liked the leader even more when he learned she (he) would lead all the kids on a trip to the park. As they marched toward the park, the kids sang together, "**Left, left, left, right, left.**" The group of kids walked down Fourth Street, turned **left** on Second Avenue, **left** again on Sixth Street, and there on their **left** was **Right** Way Park.

Right Way Park was filled with swings, slides and all the **right** things kids love. And Daniel, his brother and his sister decided that the trip to the park was the **right** way to end a great day.

Once again, Daniel was **right**, his sister was **right**, and his brother was **right**, when they made the decision to join the Modern Woodmen youth service club.

Get crazy with "Anyone Who..."

Start by placing chairs in a circle, making sure you have one less chair than people. The person without a chair stands in the middle of the circle, and he/she makes an "Anyone who..." statement. All of the players who fit into that category get up and find another seat, and the person in the middle tries to find a seat as well. For example, the middle person says "Anyone who...has on a red shirt" then all those with red shirts would have to get up and move. In a new group, it's a great way to show commonalities exist on many levels. This game is for older kids/teens and requires ample space.

Unwrap the fun. Put a number of small prizes in a box, and repeatedly cover the box with wrapping paper. Cover the box with at least 20 layers of paper. Then pass the gift while the kids sit in a circle. Taking turns, the child holding the gift can remove one layer of wrapping paper. Continue passing it until all paper is removed, and let the kids each pick one prize.

Youth service clubs are important for kids and communities. Children who are members get the chance to volunteer, gain patriotic pride, learn and have fun!