

## HOW TO PLAN A CREATIVE HYPHEN EVENT

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LOCAL  
CHURCH  
LEADERS

**Know your audience.** What is the age range among your young adult group? What do they typically do for fun? What sort of environment makes them feel comfortable? Plan accordingly. Remember that planning a creative Hyphen event begins with creating an event tailor made for young adults.

**Clarify your purpose.** What is your purpose for holding this particular young adult event? Fellowship, evangelism, recreation, or perhaps all three? Is it to connect visitors to existing members of your church? Strengthen the friendships among your established members? Implement a Bible study or service? Once a clear direction for the event has been established, you can then move forward in the planning process.

**Create a budget.** Create a feasible budget for your event. In many cases there are no available funds for such events, in which case you can get creative with how to fiscally make the event happen. Perhaps you could charge a \$5.00 entrance fee or host an event at your local park or at the home of one of your young adults and have everyone bring a food item. Once you have created your budget, get to planning! Some key items to plan include date and time, location, food, entertainment, advertising, and décor.

**Everybody wants what everybody wants.** Sometimes the easiest way to plan a creative Hyphen event is to host an event that young adults would otherwise do on their own or in an alternative social group. This could include a fall party, corn maze, theme park event, holiday-related parties, Christmas shopping, or a day trip to another city. If young adults will be participating in a similar event on their own time and dime, it would make for simple event-planning to initiate hosting the activity as an event so young adults can not only have fun, but do so in a group of like-minded people. This is also a great opportunity to invite guests to a non-invasive church event.

**Get creative.** Explore all of your options. Find community centers in your area that will let you rent their facilities for little to no charge. Check out your local restaurants and coffeehouses about booking a large party, or the possibility of having one of your young adults play live music at a coffeehouse during your event. Sometimes the idea of planning a creative event seems exhausting, but by thinking out of the box and utilizing your resources, you can host an unforgettable Hyphen event!