



Eastern Federation REGION IV NEWS

GIVE 'UM SOME ROOM AND LET 'UM GROW

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The Eastern Federation has, according to recent accounting, close to 12,000 members -- 8 1/2 percent of which are junior members. Is your club above this figure? If so, are you proud of that fact? You should be. But beware! Junior membership can change rapidly. Junior membership can disappear. These young people -- and that is what they are -- young people -- many are at or approaching an age level where they want to be actively involved in something -- rockhounding if it is interesting. Something else if our clubs are not holding their interest. They are potentially our future adult club members and future leaders. About now, you may be saying or thinking, okay wise guy what do you suggest, if you know so much! Well I don't know that much, but you and they do. If your club sponsors a separate junior activities program, or club under an adult committee, fine. Keep up the good work! Make sure the adult club provides support both to the junior group and to its adult leadership. Don't stand by and let that adult leadership burn itself out for lack of support and recognition. Award or recognize them in some manner

Now let's talk about the club where the junior members attend the adult club perhaps with a parent or sponsor. Give them some responsibility. Some job within the meetings. For example, here are some suggestions. You can probably add to the list.

1. If your club has a door prize at the meeting, make them responsible to give out the tickets. Start with the older juniors, pick one to lead it, and an assistant with the rule that next meeting the assistant move up and has a new assistant at the next meeting.
2. If your club has a raffle at each meeting (for example 3 tickets for \$1.00), give one or two juniors - 6 dollars worth of tickets to sell at a time. Sure they may badger some of the other members in their zeal and enthusiasm, but it won't hurt or offend an adult if so approached - they can always say "not this week". The juniors also learn from this exposure.
3. Does your club have name tags that are distributed and collected at the end of the meetings? Have one or two juniors under the direction of an adult give them out one at a time to some adult member who neglected to pick up his/her name tag at the door. This way the junior member learns the names of adult members. Make it a privilege though - perhaps announce that at next month's meeting (so and so) will help with the name tags. Maybe have this junior give out junior name tags. Here, of course, age and ability need to be matched.
4. If chairs must be arranged or transported from storage each meeting, show them what you expect and step back - but again, make it a privilege as well as a responsibility - and recognize when the job has been well done for some period of time. Then allow another junior to grow into the job.
5. Is the floor required to be swept after the meeting? Allow a junior to serve on that team also. Perhaps for 3 - 4 meetings. Again, rotating the privilege with recognition if well done.
6. Clean club equipment.
7. Paint club meeting place.
8. Be responsible for some part of a field trip.
9. Carry door prizes to the winners.
10. This space is left blank _____ because you know your club best and can surely add to these suggestions. But, get them involved if you expect to retain them by giving them some club responsibility that has a meaning and is useful.