



Youth Stewardship, Coaches Ministry in the CYO

The Coach as a Youth Minister

As CYO basketball coaches, we have the opportunity to mold young men and women through the sport of basketball. We teach basketball skills and expect hard work and effort from our players. As CYO coaches we also have the responsibility to teach mentor and mold young men and women, not only in skills, but also in leading a life in Christ's footsteps through stewardship. You can be more than a coach by reaching out you can be a youth minister for them. What a calling and responsibility! Expand your role and listen to Christ's calling.

The Coach as a Farmer- Planting Seeds

For youth stewardship to grow, you as the coach must enable stewardship opportunities within your team during the course of the season. This is enabled by planting seeds and setting expectations at the start of the season for the team by explaining that there will be opportunities for each of them to give back through community service / stewardship events. The sooner in the program the better. 5th and 6th grade is a great age to start with. This plants the seeds early, and as the kids move through the program the expectations are already in place and expected.

Enable Community Service / Stewardship during the season

There is no better way to mentor your players to live like Christ, than to actually do it! Take the time during your season to help and serve others. Coordinate and schedule a community service / stewardship event or events for your team to participate in. Choose something that will be rewarding for the team while helping out a charity that is in need. It need not take up tons of time. Replace a practice with a community service event. This way your kids see the larger picture, more than just playing basketball. You will help them to develop as young Christian boys and girls.

Our Examples

1. **Ringing the bells at Christmas for the Salvation Army.** This helps to raise much-needed funds for the needy in our community. This also provides a great opportunity for pairing kids up that might not know each other that well, as there are typically 3 players at each kettle.
2. **Volunteer at St. Anne's Community by transporting the residents to and from Eucharist and to coffee hour.** This is a great opportunity, as the team will attend Eucharist as well.



Example: Justin Goodwin , Sharing the peace be with you throughout the congregation

3. **Raise money from player donations to purchase basketballs for those less fortunate.** We have donated basketballs many times to the House of Mercy and St. Joseph's Villa. Bring the players to the store and have them each buy a ball. This way they have a physical part of the giving back. They can also help you to deliver them as well.
4. **Volunteer for things to do right at your own parish.** There is always something to do at your parish. Examples of thing that we do are:
 - Setting up, working and breaking down the Parish Festival
 - Setting up the gym for Casino night, which is a fundraiser for our CYO program
 - Setting up the gym for Easter Sunday mass
 - Cooking breakfast for the Breakfast with Santa
 - Decorating the church for Christmas Eucharist
 - One year we even moved our parish office from the old location to the new one
 - Spring cleaning , grass cutting planting

Example: Jeff Looten's Festival set up team

5. **Provide Stewardship to their own teammates.** We have tried everything. No idea is off the table. We have had some of our experienced player's work by coaching basketball skills those who might be new to our program and are still learning the game of basketball. Examples are shooting, dribbling, and passing. This is typically something that should be done at the 8th grade level to high school level, due to maturity and skill of the game that is required. This not only helps the player receiving the help, but also gives the more experienced players a sense of self-esteem, leadership and giving back directly to a teammate.
6. **Many of our players provide stewardship through their faith as well.** Each year we have Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors on our teams. Many of the boys also participate in our Holy Cross youth ministry program where additional stewardship opportunities are offered.

Additional annual events:

7. Annually our players are awarded Faith through Sports awards, along with our seniors receiving Hands of Christ awards too. In the players letters they mention their service work through the CYO, which is always rewarding to hear.
8. At the end of the season we hold a senior day where our seniors are recognized for their participation in our program. They are awarded a certificate from their coach and a gift from our Youth Minister, Donna Jacobi. Their parents are called out with them and mom's are given carnations.

For more information please feel free to contact me:

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