



Children's Event Ideas

Opening night celebration

Children are generally included as participants in the GIC opening ceremony on the first night. For example, the children's choir may perform alone or with youth and/or adult choirs. Children could be dismissed to a children's activity after their performance and the flag's opening ceremony. Conversely, your church may decide to continue with its regular children's programming. In that case, be sure to add in a missions emphasis to the evening. We have suggestions and resources available.

Children's missions night

While the adults and teens have their international banquet on Friday or Saturday night, the children can enjoy their own special event. Try to keep your children's banquet festive and focused on your children's missions theme. Make sure the food selections are child friendly while providing an international experience. If you have a food tasting for the international night and missionary displays to visit, the children can participate in that event with their family. The children could then have their own activity during the time when the missionaries speak.

Sunday morning

At the children's Sunday morning Bible study, a visiting mission partner may be assigned speak with the children for a time of interaction. Consider a mission emphasis in your curriculum. In addition, you may wish to take this time to integrate a mission partner care project. Make sure to include a chance for children to respond to Faith Promise and Life Commitment cards. By the end of the GIC, your children will have a better understanding of how God views the world and how they can have a part in missions. Please allow adequate time to talk through the Life Promise and Faith Commitment cards with the children and allow them to respond in the way God is prompting them.

Other opportunities

In addition to the opportunities mentioned above, there are a few more things you may want to consider. The children could make a gift for the mission partners. Make sure whatever they make is small and can fit into a suitcase for easy travel. This can be done beforehand to help build excitement for the GIC. You could also consider creating a prayer wall that the children pray over which focuses on the different missionaries. Make it interactive and something they can respond to at each station. The mission partners would love to see this display at the end of the weekend. Again, this could be done prior to the GIC as a build up to the event. The Day of Service is an excellent opportunity for families and adults from all ages to intergenerationally serve together. Make sure there are opportunities for families to serve and for children to be an active part of the event. One more note: don't forget the value of play as you plan children's events!