

2020 - 2021  
YOUTH FORMATION

# CREATIVE WAYS TO CONNECT WITH TEENS



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HOUMA  THIBODAUX

Office of Parish Support

## DRIVE BYS

Have some mentors pair up. Bring a couple of lawn chairs and some food to share and set up on a teen's front lawn. This can be as quick as a 5-10 minute hang out. Ask them how they're doing and what's going on in their world. You may even want to do a short devotional, bible study, or prayer. Invite multiple kids to make it even more exciting. Just be sure that parents know what's happening and are okay with it.

## OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHTS

Set up a projector on the wall of your parish hall or another building. Get speakers and have an outdoor movie night/afternoon. Make it a family event or just invite the teens. Watch something fun and provide popcorn! Team Members - man the popcorn and drink stations and use it as an opportunity to introduce yourself to parents and teens to start building relationships. When selecting a movie, maintain close communication with your Pastor and the parents to ensure age appropriate content in which everyone is comfortable.

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Local nonprofits that serve the community are still looking for volunteers and have worked through COVID-19 precautions. See who you can serve with and get a group involved! As leaders, use the opportunity to build relationships with the teens as you serve alongside them.

## HAND WRITTEN CARDS & NOTES

Have a calendar of people's birthdays? No? Then create one from past registration information. Mail teens a handwritten birthday card a few days before their birthday. Or don't even wait for their birthday. Everyone loves getting a letter in the mail. How cool if every teen in your youth formation group got a handwritten letter from a leader??

## NETFLIX WATCH PARTY

Netflix has made it possible to stream the same show/movie at the same time as friends with a chat box to talk while watching. Choose an appropriate movie and set up a watch party.

## WATCH AND DISCUSS "THE CHOSEN"

The Chosen is a brand new TV series about Jesus that's available for free on youtube. It's well done and engaging. You can get a group to watch it together (think outdoor movie nights!) or on their own and meet over Zoom or Google Meetings once a week to discuss it.

## UTILIZE SOCIAL MEDIA

### **Use Instagram to Engage, Not Just Inform**

Don't think of Instagram as a bulletin board. It's SOCIAL media, so be SOCIAL! Post pictures of teens at events and tag them. Tag teens in comments. Put up interviews with team members sharing about themselves. Keep the focus on connecting people with people, not just advertising events.

### **Verse or Reflection of the Day on Instagram Live**

Have a set day/time when someone from the team shares a verse of scripture that inspires them and share why. Want bonus points? Get teens involved! Have a Drive By (see above) planned for a teen to be the one to share the verse/reflection. Just prep them ahead of time!

### **Instagram Live Q&A With The Pastor**

Have your pastor on Instagram live to answer questions about the faith or for fun. Get some write in questions ahead of time (from teens or provided by you). Be sure to advertise this ahead of time! You might not have a lot of live views the first time but people can watch later. Do it a few times and keep it fun and your audience will grow!