

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

EDGE STARTUP NIGHT TWO

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Wood platforms
- Forms or calendars for parents

MEDIA SUGGESTIONS

- Song: "Hold Us Together" by Matt Maher (*Alive Again*, Provident)
- Song: "Welcome to Life" by Matt Maher (*Welcome to Life*, OCP)

EDGE NIGHT GOAL

The goal of this night is to introduce the youth to a typical Edge Night and allow them to get to know the other youth in their small groups.

This night will also provide a time for the youth minister to get to know the parents and meet with them to answer any questions they may have.

EDGE NIGHT AT A GLANCE

The main focus of this night is for the youth to start getting to know each other, especially those who will be in their small group.

The night starts with a fun group game and is followed by a brief Proclaim explaining what a typical Edge Night looks like. The youth will then break into their small groups and have the opportunity to play some fun "getting to know you" games and do a team building activity.

During small groups there is an opportunity for the youth minister to meet with the parents and answer any questions they have. The night will end with some large group sharing and a closing prayer.

ENVIRONMENT

The environment for this night can be very simple. If you have the pictures of the youth from the previous week, put those up or have them playing in a slideshow. You could do the same with any pictures of the youth minister or Core Team. You can also put up an Edge banner and encouraging words about friendship and community.

CORE TEAM FORMATION

This night is all about your small groups. This is a great time to get to know and bond with the youth in your group.

Small groups can be tricky to facilitate at times, especially with all the different personalities of each youth.

If you are struggling or want more information on how to run small groups, ask your youth minister for some resources such as the Edge Core Handbook, articles from Amplify, or articles from the Edge Start Up Kit.

TO THE PARENTS

Your child had the opportunity tonight to get an idea of what a typical Edge Night is like and was able to meet with his or her small group. If you were not able to attend the parent meeting

tonight, be sure to contact the youth minister to get any information you need or ask any questions. Here are a few questions to ask your youth about Edge.

- What are you most excited about for Edge?
- Did you like your small group? Who is one new person you met tonight?
- What was your favorite activity you did with your small group? Why?

GATHER

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

(5 min)

Gather all the youth into a large group. Introduce anyone new at Edge and recognize any birthdays. Welcome any parents who have come to the night, and begin in prayer.

“I LOVE MY FRIENDS WHO”

(10 min)

Instruct all the youth to stand in a large circle. Choose one youth or Core Member to stand in the middle of the circle. At this point, the youth in the middle of the circle will say the following phrase “I love my friends who . . .” and add in some defining factor such as, “I love my friends who are wearing jeans” or “I love my friends who play baseball.”

At that point, any youth who falls into the category must leave their spot and run to a different spot in the circle. The youth in the middle also runs to a new open spot in the circle.

The youth who is left with no new spot to stand in will then be the one to stand in the middle. The game continues like this until you are out of time.

PROCLAIM

“GETTING TO KNOW YOU” TEACHING/TESTIMONY

(5 min)

Bring up the youth minister to give a testimony. He or she should share a little about him or herself and how he or she ended up being the Edge youth minister. He or she should emphasize how God has moved in his or her life throughout the years. He or she should also discuss why Edge is so important along with why he or she is here to serve and teach the youth.

If time permits consider bringing up a few Core Members to introduce themselves, tell why they think Edge is important, and share why they are serving.

BREAK

SMALL GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

(10 min)

At this time, have all the Core Members come to the front of the room. Call out the names of all the youth that are in each Core Member’s small group and have them go to a designated area of the room. We recommend that you meet with your small group in the same spot at each Edge Night.

Once all the youth have been assigned to their small groups, let the Core Members proceed with the games and team building activities while the youth minister takes the parents to a different room.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

(10 min)

Begin your small group in prayer. Then go around the circle and have each youth introduce him or herself. They should say their name, what school they go to, and a fun fact about them. Then pose a challenge to see if any youth in the group can go around and correctly name everyone. To make it even more challenging, make all the youth get up

and move to a different spot in the circle to see if any of the youth can name everyone correctly. Then have all the youth get in line alphabetically by their first names. The catch is that they cannot talk. If your youth need more of a challenge have them next get in the correct order by their birthdays (month and day) without talking.

TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE

(10 min)

For this game, each youth in the small group will have the opportunity to say two things that are true about them and one thing that is a lie. Then all the youth in the group will go around and try to guess which one is a lie. The youth that guesses correctly gets to go next. This continues until all the youth have had a chance to go.

Here is an example: I have four sisters and one brother, I love dogs, and I have been to Ohio. The lie is that I have four sisters and one brother; I actually only have one sister and one brother.

If you have extra time, ask the youth some follow up questions about the truths in their life such as: what is your dog's name, tell us about your trip to Ohio, are you the oldest or youngest, etc.

ALL ABOARD

(10 min)

Supplies:

- Wooden platform

Place a two-foot-by-two-foot wooden platform in the middle of the circle. Instruct the youth that they all must stand on this platform at the same time. They cannot have any part of their body touching the ground.

Give them some time to figure this out; there will probably be some very creative ideas and attempts. The easiest way to do this is for each youth to put one foot on the box and hold hands with the youth across from them while lifting their other foot off the ground. But if your youth come up with other ways to accomplish this task, that's fine too. Be sure to give them plenty of time to figure it out before you interject any comments or suggestions.

PARENTAL INFORMATION MEETING

(35 min)

Have this meeting while the youth are doing their small group team building activities. This is a time for the youth minister to introduce him or herself to the parents and answer any questions they may have. It is a good idea to have copies of the semester calendar available for the parents, as well as information for any activities away from the parish, especially retreats. This is an essential time for you to gain the trust of the parents and their support for the ministry so that they will keep bringing their youth to the program.

During this time you can explain what Edge is in the larger context of the Life Teen movement. If possible you can also play the Life Teen Promo video (see Media Suggestions). This is also a great time to explain the vision for the ministry, why you are starting it at the parish, and what you hope to accomplish through it. Allow some time for the parents to ask any questions they may have, and make sure to lead prayer at the beginning of the meeting and at the end. Pray specifically for their children and their growing relationship with Christ.

SEND

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

(5 min)

Bring all the youth and the parents back into the large group. Ask any youth to share about their time in small groups, someone new they met, and see if any of them can name all the people in their small group. You can also have them share something fun they learned about someone or their favorite activity during small groups.

CLOSING PRAYER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(10 min)

End the night praying the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be. Ask the youth for any prayer intentions before beginning the prayer. Have the youth minister or a Core Member lead.

Conclude with any announcements for next week, challenge the youth to bring a friend, and thank the parents for attending. Be sure that the youth minister and Core Members are available to mingle with the youth as the leave and possibly meet the parents of the youth in their small groups.

FURTHER ADAPTATION IDEAS

- Find a creative way to split the youth into their small group such as putting their names on different colored balloons that correlate with their groups, writing their names on plastic Easter eggs and hiding them around the room, or giving them all different stickers as they walk in that correspond with their small groups.
- If you are not able to get wooden platforms for the All Aboard activity, make a two-by-two box with tape on the ground that the youth all have to stand in at the same time.