



Engaging Youth

"It's very important to keep in touch with our young people. We don't want to lose them through this." Lt. Colonel Connie Canning's warning may have struck a chord, but how do we act on it? This section will highlight three avenues in which you can connect with, bless and empower the youth in your community.

1

*Meet them
where they are*

Engage with young people on the platform they already use: social media. Not only will you have better success connecting with them but you'll also be showing that they're worth connecting with.

2

*Make space
for them*

Make space for youth and young adults in your corps by asking them what they want, what their talents and interests are and then make space for that. Give them opportunities to do what only they can do.

3

*Find ways to
bless them*

Bless youth with something you know they need or will enjoy. Small 'thinking of you' gifts like their favorite candy or a gas card help to reinforce that you support and care about them.

Meet them where they are

Youth and young adults find community and connect with others through digital means. Included below are ideas on how to engage with them in these spaces.

YOUTH LEADERS

- **Be present** on the top social media platforms - Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, Snapchat and Houseparty.
- **Create fun 1 minute video devotionals**, post on TikTok and share to Instagram and Snapchat to widen your reach.
- **Through these platforms, play games and hold contests**, keeping them engaged with a variety of content and occasional incentives.
- **Go live on Instagram!** This method is extremely popular, in part because on this platform viewers can join the live video, allowing for some great interaction. You can hold a Q&A, do stand up, etc.
- **Gather everyone together on Zoom** (or Houseparty, etc). Spend some time allowing everyone to catch up, and end with a short devotional and time of prayer.
- **Schedule a time of lament for your youth.** This isn't a gathering to fix things or fight, but instead an opportunity for them to share their thoughts and feelings, process what's going on and pray for each other.
- **If your corps livestreams their services, invite your youth to join a Zoom video call** where you meet and discuss that day's sermon. This helps reinforce the message and adds accountability.
- **If you create video content, 'Premiere' it on Facebook or YouTube.** This allows viewers to all watch, chat and experience the video together.
- **Arrange a Netflix Party**, a new feature that allows friends to watch the same movie together from their homes and chat in real time!
- **Reach out** to individually invite each youth!

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PSALM 78:4

We will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders.



CORPS MEMBERS

- **Touch base on social media!** Let them know you're thinking about them, sorry for what they're missing out on (graduation/camp/etc) and that you're praying for them.
- **Interact with them on social media.** 'Like' their posts and/or comment to be an encouragement.
- **Get a group together** for an online game night!
- **Take a skill that you have and find a way to impart that on them,** such as a group video chat tutorial on baking, crafting, whatever!
- **Ask them to share what they've been enjoying online and have been blessed by** in terms of worship, Bible teaching, etc.

Reach out to the youth in your corps to determine what their interests and talents are. Once you begin building those up and making space for them, your programs and services will be all the richer, and the body of Christ will be strengthened and become more effective! We've created a sample survey (see end of this section) that can help you in this endeavor.

Make space for them

Look for ways that young people are already displaying their gifts, anointings, callings, talents - and make space for that. Our youth are valued and necessary parts of the body, and we shouldn't just give them opportunities to do what adults do, but also what only *they* can do!

Another thing you can focus on is making space for relationships and growth. You may not know what youth are going through, but you can sit with them through it. You can be there for them with the heart and willingness to listen, and, as scripture urges, to 'carry one another's burdens'.

What does that look like during this time? It'll differ corps by corps, but some examples would be:

Eagerly listen and support their ideas and initiatives. Encourage young people and work alongside them. Let them know they are valued and respected at the table.

- **Invite them to take part in your online worship service or even help plan it.** You could also incorporate 'preliminaries' into your online Sunday services, and use this as a time and platform for youth to share their favorite Sunday School song, Christian joke-of-the-day, give shout-outs to their leaders and everyone they miss and so on.
- **Ask them to help generate graphics or content** for your corps social media accounts.

Find ways to bless them

Bless youth with something you know they need or will enjoy. Help them celebrate school starting by dropping off treats at their house or equipping them for college with a gas card or some dorm supplies. For kids, water balloons and popsicles will be welcome during those long, hot days of summer. The following page features a more in-depth list of these types of ideas!

Kids

Water balloons, Popsicles, Coloring books, Glow sticks, Sidewalk chalk, Stomp Rocket, Nature kit, Hot wheels, Legos, Stickers, Hula hoop, Bubbles, Craft supplies, Paint, Outdoor toys, Misting fan, Dessert kit, Books, Brain Teasers, Cards, Dress Up clothes

Teens

Gift cards (Starbucks, Amazon, Apple, Gas station), Baked goods (homemade cookies, brownies, cake), Board games, Letter boards, Popsockets, Manicure kit, Beach supplies, Tumblers, Succulents, Sundae ingredients and supplies, Movie night treat box, Scrunchies

Young Adults

Gift cards (Starbucks, Amazon, Apple, iTunes, Gas station, UberEats), DIY gift, Dorm supplies (detergent, blankets, decorative items), Flowers or succulents, Devotional book, Mug with bag of coffee, Baked goods (homemade cookies, brownies, cake), Board games, Meal from favorite local restaurant, Gift for their pet

Amazon Lists are very popular right now as a way for corps or people to identify their needs and allow others to provide for them. It could simply be a can of soup, some shampoo, diapers - with a 'click', those items can be purchased from Amazon and shipped directly to the homes of those in need.



gift
ideas

“ Years passed away before William Booth and his wife came to the point where they could step out, shake off traditional methods and means, and begin to carry out evangelistic work on lines forbidden by churches... in the same way, officers and soldiers think of and carry out numberless little ideas of their own that the leaders or higher officers in the Army never dreamed of, in ways which the General acknowledged would be to him well-nigh impossible. ”

MAUDE BOOTH

corps participation and leadership SURVEY

for youth and young adults

Check all that apply

Please ask me to

- Take Junior Soldier classes
- Take Senior Soldier classes
- Teach Sunday School
- Read Scripture in meeting
- Be an usher
- Be a greeter
- Help with youth programs
- Help in the nursery
- Lead a song on Sunday
- Play in the band
- Sing in the songsters
- Help clean the corps
- Help with corps social media
- Assist with corps meals
- Help plan a fundraiser
- Help plan corps events
- Help with running sound
- Help run Sunday's slides
- Assist with Home League
- Assist with Kettles
- Help with Angel Tree
- Help with Toy Distribution
- Help with translation
- Join a Bible Study
- Start/join a timbrel brigade
- Perform a dance/drama
- Photograph corps events

Name

Age

Phone Number

Email

- Participate in VBS
- Chaperone
- Help pick up corps members
- Help with the canteen ministry
- Help fold programs
-

Check all that apply

Areas of interest

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Photography | <input type="radio"/> Graphic design |
| <input type="radio"/> Videography | <input type="radio"/> Cooking |
| <input type="radio"/> Dance | <input type="radio"/> Crafting |
| <input type="radio"/> Drama | <input type="radio"/> DIY projects |
| <input type="radio"/> Music (performance) | <input type="radio"/> Woodworking |
| <input type="radio"/> Service | <input type="radio"/> Leadership (training) |
| <input type="radio"/> Praise and worship | <input type="radio"/> Ministry (training) |
| <input type="radio"/> Prayer | <input type="radio"/> Tech |
| <input type="radio"/> Fundraising | <input type="radio"/> |
- I believe I have nothing to offer

Did we miss anything?

TIME FOR DISCUSSION

TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS WANT TO
FEEL SEEN AND HEARD, AND KNOW
THAT THEY HAVE A SAFE SPACE TO
PROCESS AND LAMENT WHAT THEY'RE
GOING THROUGH.

SO SIT WITH THEM IN IT. LISTEN.
VALIDATE AND ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR
FEELINGS. ENCOURAGE DIALOGUE AND
INCORPORATE PRAYER.

INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING
PAGES ARE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
TO UTILIZE WITH YOUTH.

WHAT'S BEEN THE HARDEST THING ABOUT THIS TIME FOR YOU IN REGARDS TO NOT BEING ABLE TO ATTEND THE CORPS?

WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND HAS BEEN HARDEST TO TRUST GOD WITH DURING THIS TIME?

IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU THINK YOUR GENERATION WILL BE DEEPLY IMPACTED BY THIS TIME?

AS A YOUTH, HAS THIS TIME CHANGED YOUR PERCEPTION OF ADULTS/LEADERS IN ANY WAY?

WHAT WAYS HAVE REACHED OUT AND SUPPORTED OTHERS DURING THIS TIME?

WHAT'S ONE LESSON THAT YOU'VE LEARNED DURING THIS TIME THAT YOU'D LIKE TO TAKE BACK TO YOUR CORPS?

WHEN IT COMES TO THE FUTURE, WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

WHICH OF YOUR RELATIONSHIPS HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED DUE TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS YEAR?

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST SURPRISED BY?

DISAPPOINTED BY?

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME, WHAT WOULD YOU TELL YOUR 2019 SELF ABOUT WHAT'D BE COMING?

HAS YOUR TIME SPENT IN THE WORD DECREASED OR INCREASED?

WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?

WHAT'S THE MOST VALUABLE LESSON THIS TIME HAS TAUGHT YOU THUS FAR?

HOW CAN WE BEST BE THERE FOR YOU DURING THIS TIME?

WHAT'S YOUR HOPE FOR YOUR CORPS DURING THIS TIME?

IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU SEE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS EVOLVING DURING THIS TIME?

WHAT NEW OPPORTUNITIES HAVE YOU HAD TO UTILIZE THEM?

SHARE THREE EXAMPLES OF WAYS YOU HAVE SEEN GOD WORKING DURING THIS TIME.

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU AND THIS UPCOMING/CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR?

WHAT STEPS ARE YOU TAKING TO PROTECT YOUR MENTAL HEALTH?

WHAT WAYS HAVE YOU FELT MORE CONNECTED TO OTHERS DURING THIS TIME?

WHAT SCRIPTURE VERSE OR WORSHIP SONG HAVE YOU BEEN CLINGING TO?

DISCONNECTED?

WHAT THREE WAYS GOD HAS BLESSED YOU THAT YOU MAY NOT HAVE RECOGNIZED BEFORE THIS YEAR?

HAS SOCIAL MEDIA NEGATIVELY OR POSITIVELY IMPACTED YOU THIS YEAR?

WHEN DO YOU KNOW TO DISCONNECT?

DO YOU FEAR THAT THE ISSUES IN OUR COUNTRY/WORLD ARE TOO BIG RIGHT NOW FOR EVEN GOD TO HANDLE?

IF YOU COULD PRAY FOR ONE THING AND ONE THING ONLY, WITH A 100% GUARANTEE THAT GOD WILL GIVE IT TO YOU, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

WHAT FEELS IMPOSSIBLE?