

## **C-Bridge Cycle Two-Shift Nine**

### **C-Bridge Leadership Focus**

#### **Previously**

With the C-Bridge Outreach Event just finished, the church begins to work with all high school attendees (and their interested friends) to prepare them for entry into the campus community.

#### **Reaching Activity**

With the contacts and database of names and addresses, the church collegiate leadership (working together with BCM leaders) will plan an OTC Senior Retreat (On To Campus Senior Retreat), which will be held within one month after the Outreach Event.

#### **Reaching Activity Title**

OTC Senior Retreat 2.0

#### **Primary Objective**

This weekend will be designed to follow up on the seniors and their transitions into college, and particularly on preparing them with leadership and survival skills going into college.

#### **Secondary Objective**

Another objective to this activity is to set up a continued network between college leaders/mentors of the church with the students, and to give them the option of someone to be a resource for them during their college years!

#### **How This Can Help You Reach c20s**

Both in preparing them for the new experiences of college and in retaining connectedness to their student ministers/mentors, this activity can help them in looking at the landscape of college to prepare for it; to examine their own leadership skills (and weaknesses) as to where they can best serve and minister; and to connect them (phone, social media and visits) with persons in their local church that can be good sounding boards for them as they study.

#### **A Base-Suggested Approach**

Any church, whether they have budgets and resources for professional collegiate and/or student workers, can have persons committed to helping college students make this transition. The OTC does not have to be extensive or expensive to host. Guests can be brought in from the local BCMs, like campus ministers, to help in preparing the students for what they will face.

#### **Extra Mile Suggestions**

For churches with larger resourcing and staffing, this activity can be used to help college leaders face to face with transitioning high school students, helping them to have resources and training on what they will face; and connecting those transitioning students with a mentor or helper to make the transition easier as they go on to college. Those larger churches can also serve as encouragers to smaller churches in resourcing and staffing the retreat.

- **Preparation for OTC Senior Retreat**

- Using the info from the C-Bridge Outreach Event and info supplied by the attendees themselves, contact them about the OTC Retreat.
- Use Social Media (Twitter, FB or Instagram) to make contacts and to build excitement for the retreat.
- Have local BCM leaders visit the churches (Sunday School groups and small groups Bible studies), to talk about going to the campus and the importance of this OTC Retreat.
- Put together passionate leadership from the church (possibly with BCM leaders as well), to plan the logistics of the event and the different elements of it.
- Train a team of OTC Mentors (On To College Mentors) to be ready to serve as encouragers with these new college students. Help them to see the steps of maturation that are needed for the new students and particularly the necessity of continued connection with their local church.
- Host the event using the leadership.
- Follow up - Work with mentors to stay connected with their new students, meeting/contacting them within the first week. Occasionally make contact with their mentors to make sure communication and support is happening between the student and mentor.

- **Alternative and Additional Ideas**

- Invite BCM students (leaders and promoters) and/or campus ministers to also be on-campus mentors and helpers, where the students are open to this.
- Allow BCM leadership to network with new students to invite and integrate them into the campus ministries of their new campuses. Go with the new students to some summer meetings to give them a feel of the campus environment.
- Teaching curriculum at the OTC could include “being a leader or being led,” apologetic themes (preparing for college survival), learning and implementing your spiritual gifts, striking the balance in my walk with Christ and the campus environment, etc....

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