All the Answers to Programming (well, most of them…)
National Jesuit Student Leadership Conference 2009
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Reasons Why We Program
1. Educate residents
2. Build Community
3. Provide social opportunities
4. Raise awareness
5. Assist in students’ transitions
6. Provide outlets for emotions & thoughts

Types of Programs
1. Educational
2. Social
3. Active
4. Passive

Ways to Assess the Needs of Residents
1. Formal survey
2. Discussions at meetings
3. Discussions with individuals
4. Observations of behaviors
5. Observations of physical facilities
6. Knowing theory and trends

People Who Can Help Provide Programming Ideas & Services
1. Campus residents & student org members
2. Professional and Graduate Resident Directors or Student Activities staff
3. Fellow student leaders
4. Faculty, advisors, moderators
5. Student Affairs staff (Student Success, Multicultural Affairs, Career Center, etc.)
6. Internet sites

Steps in the Programming Process
1. Needs Assessment
2. Idea Formation
3. Planning
4. Publicity
5. Implementation
6. Evaluation
7. Follow-up
• involve residents at every step!

Publicity Tactics
1. Flyers
2. Banners
3. Invitations
4. WORD OF MOUTH
5. Teasers
6. E-mail messages
7. Newsletter articles
8. Phone & Text messages
9. Table Tents
10. Announcements at student gov’t, housing gov’t, councils, floor mtgs
11. Door Hangers
• remember to vary size, colors, locations, & shapes used

Things that Happen during Implementation
1. Set up room, munchies, handouts
2. Set up A/V equipment and test it
3. Greet guests & presenters
4. Greet residents
5. Introductions
6. Participate in activities; remain mindful of how you can help with potential issues
7. Wrap up - “thanks for coming”
8. Presenter/planner recognition
9. Student evaluations

Why do we Evaluate Programs?
1. Learn from mistakes
2. Get ideas for future programs
3. Help other RAs
4. Tracking of programs

How is Evaluation done?
1. Paper or online surveys
2. Observation of participants  
3. Discussions with residents  
4. Inferences and judgments  
7. Physical Health  
8. Community Building  
9. Alcohol  

Important Educational Topics  
1. Diversity/Cultural  
2. Spirituality  
3. Emotional Health  
4. Skill Building  
5. Vocational  
6. Service & Justice  

Common Programming Mistakes  
1. Poor or last-minute planning  
2. Weak/no publicity  
3. Choosing busy times/dates  
4. Topic: RA Interest v. Resident Need  
5. Poor hosting of guest presenters  
6. Duplication of efforts among RAs  

Academic Environment  

Things that Contribute  
- Enforcement of Quiet Hours  
- Tutoring in the halls  
- Workshops on study skills, test taking, time management, etc.  
- Good study spaces  
- Study groups & general peer support  
- Computer labs  
- Information on academic deadlines & requirements  
- Information on campus academic supports/resources  

Things that Detract  
- Excessive partying, substance use, noise  
- Freedoms associated with coming to college  
- Not knowing about resources  
- Lack of direction/motivation  
- Negative or Lack of support from peers  
- University Red Tape  
- Jays games 😊  

Bulletin Board Tips  

- Use contrasting colors, but not to the point of becoming too busy!  
- Use creative backgrounds (ie: newspaper for a current events board)  
- Borders help to draw in attention and can add a touch of polish – they can be made out of any material or bought inexpensively at a teacher-supply store  
- Pictures help draw attention, rather than just text  
- Hand-written or cut-out letters are more eye-catching than all computer-generated text  
- Avoid cluttering the board – main themes should be able to be read several feet away  
- Headlines!  
- 3-D items are always a bang for your buck (ie: pillowed lettering, construction paper springs, flyers in a holder for people to take, actual objects or models like cans for a board on recycling, a pillowed sun for spring break awareness, etc.)