

THE L.I.T. MINISTRY
(Don Estep – Awana Missionary in Illinois)

Introduction

There are tons of questions about the ministry of L.I.T.'s.
You may be saying "Is there anything I can put my hands on?"
Clubs always need extra assistance and more leaders.
There's an untapped resource in our churches – they are the L.I.T.'s.

1. Definition

- a. L.I.T. means Leader in Training.
- b. It usually refers to high school teens serving in the younger clubs.
- c. Sometimes this also could refer to a mature junior higher working in the Cubbies or younger Sparks.
- d. These are young people who have come up through the club or who may be new to the club scene.
- e. These should be encouraged to be in a handbook/manual while serving.
- f. Wisdom needs to be used to evaluate their place of serving and effectiveness.

2. Qualifications and Responsibilities

a. Qualifications

- i. Saved with a consistent godly walk.
- ii. A teen with a burden and vision to minister and serve.
- iii. Youthful in their attitude but not immature.
- iv. Patient and gentle.
- v. Interested in the needs of others.
- vi. Humble, willing to do anything for the Lord.
- vii. One who loves God's Word and seeks to live it.

b. Responsibilities

- i. Cooperates and works with the Director and contributes a positive attitude.
- ii. Complies with standards with uniform, punctuality and other guidelines set forth.
- iii. Assists in the responsibility in the spiritual welfare and progress of clubbers under their care.
- iv. Encourages clubbers to participate in the total program.
- v. Assists in keeping records of clubbers' progress.
- vi. Assists in club absentee follow-up with an adult.
- vii. Seeks to improve their personal leadership and spiritual growth through ongoing training, Scripture memorization and personal study.
- viii. Be enthusiastic about their club service.

3. Questions you should discuss and consider

- a. What clubs should they work in?
- b. What are their responsibilities (do's and don't's).
- c. What are their leadership requirements?
- d. How are they selected?
- e. How long are they L.I.T.'s?
- f. What about their wearing of uniforms?
- g. What age should they be (Jr. High or just High School)?
- h. When and how do you promote and advertise for this ministry?

- i. To whom do you share the ministry opportunity to, High School only or do you include Jr. High in the lower clubs as well)?
 - j. How do we work their night involvement, especially if there is a youth group scheduled for part of the evening?
4. There are some dangers and cautions to be aware of.
- a. Giving them “adult only” responsibilities.
 - i. Transporting clubbers.
 - ii. Disciplining clubbers.
 - b. Overloading an already heavy High School schedule.
 - c. Developing a laid back lazy adult leadership.
 - i. “Just let the teens do it.”
 - d. Developing a warm body attitude.
 - i. Just finding anybody who’s available instead of somebody qualified and called.
 - e. Teens are not independent adults separated from their parents. Make sure you work through parents as well.
 - f. Everyone, especially if all your ministries are on the same night, need to be in their own designated ministry. Don’t just take them out of youth group and cause that ministry to struggle.
5. There are benefits and blessings.
- a. This is a ministry for teens to serve.
 - b. It has a way of growing leadership.
 - c. It puts into immediate practice what they have learned especially if they have grown up through your Awana program.
 - d. They are used as role models.
 - e. It develops a personal heartbeat for others.
 - f. It promotes the “growing up through Awana” excitement.

Conclusion:

There is excitement about the potential of an L.I.T. ministry because they are:

- Tender (They haven’t grown hard to spiritual things).
- Tried (They have been through it as a clubber).
- Tireless (They have the more energy than adults).
- Teens (They are looked up to by their clubbers).