

ASSIST WITH MOVING

A COMMUNITY SERVICE MINISTRY PROJECT

This is a great community service activity for your group. There are always people out there who need help relocating, but can't afford to pay a professional moving company. They may also be unable to do some of the work, like heavy lifting. This is your opportunity to help them out and get your group evolved in serving the community. This is not necessarily a one-time activity; it can be an on going ministry. It will really help people out, and can be great fun for your group!

Format:

1. Come up with a plan for letting people know that you have a group willing to help people relocate. You can make announcements and pass out flyers at your church, pass out flyers around your community, post information on a web site, etc. Whatever you can think of that will let people know about your moving ministry.
2. Once you are aware of a family or individual that needs help moving, make contact with them and get the location of their current residence, and the location where they will be moving to, as well as the dates and times they would like to do the moving. Tell them that you will work on the details and get back to them soon.
3. Speak with the members of your group and confirm who will be available on the dates you were given. Let these individuals know that you will be counting on them for those dates, and ask them to put it on their calendars and not make any other plans. If you need more help, then call other church members, family and friends, whomever you can, to help your group.
4. Contact the person you will be helping to move and tell them you have confirmed those dates with your group. Ask them to let you know as soon as possible if there are any changes with the schedule. This is also a good time to ask them about the types of things your group will be moving. Normal furniture and boxes are of no great concern, but you need to know if they have a piano, large entertainment center, or other large or awkward items that you will have to deal with. You will also need to ask about how you will be hauling all of their belongings. Find out if they own or plan to rent a trailer or truck, or if they want you to provide the vehicles to do the hauling. It is important that you have this information so that you can be prepared when you arrive to do the moving.

5. Based on the information you received about the type of items you will be moving, make a list of tools and supplies you will need for the project. You may want an appliance dolly, furniture dolly, packing blankets, tie down straps, rope, screw guns, socket sets, etc. You may need to disassemble some of the items you are moving and if so, just make sure it is done carefully and that all the parts are saved and labeled in some kind of container. If you are providing vehicles for the moving, then inquire with whomever you know that can help you with trucks or trailers right away. Find the vehicles you need and make sure they are available for the dates you have confirmed. You should be able to find people willing to loan you their trailers or trucks, or bring their trucks and help with the moving. If you can't find the vehicles you need, and your only choice is to rent, then you can either find someone willing to donate the rental fees, or speak with the people you are helping to move to see if they can rent the vehicles. Whatever vehicles you end up with, it is important that the drivers are experienced and preferably have hauled this type of cargo before. It is important that they understand they are hauling someone else's precious belongings and therefore need to be careful, responsible, and alert while transporting the items. Pack items in such a way that you utilize every in of space that you can. This not only gives you more space, but also can help keep the items from moving around. Make sure you protect furniture, appliances, and the like by wrapping them with moving blankets or the equivalent. Tie everything down on open trailers and trucks making sure the rope or straps do not damage any of the cargo.
6. Plan to have plenty of drinking water and other drinks available for all of the helpers in your group, and any others who might help. If time allows, plan to have pizza or some other food delivered, or take the group out to lunch, dinner, or at least ice cream after the moving is done.
7. Planning ahead is very important for this activity. Make sure you have enough people, people who are strong enough to handle the large items, people who have some knowledge of disassembly and reassembly of furniture and other related items, dollies and other supplies, vehicles to haul the items, refreshments for all the helpers, and enough qualified drivers for the moving vehicles. If there are any items that do not feel comfortable having your group handle, let the person you are helping move know, so that other arrangements can be made ahead of time. Things like pool tables and pianos can be difficult and tricky to move and you certainly do not want to damage anyone's belongings. Don't agree to do something unless you feel completely comfortable that your crew can handle it. Remember your group's purpose is to safely and carefully relocate the person's belongings.

8. Speak to your group members about the project and the importance of them being safe and careful with the items they will be handling. You have two major concerns in this type of activity. Safety of your crew, and preservation of the items being handled. Make sure your crew is clear on these points. They should not try to do more than they can handle. There is no shame in admitting it is too much. They need to understand that it is not worth them getting hurt. They need to be very careful when handling the items so that no damage to the items will occur.
9. I would suggest getting written permission from parents or guardians of any minors who will be helping you with this activity. There are ready-made permission slips for this purpose in the XYR Ministries/Youth Group Administration section of our web site www.xtremeyouthresources.org. Pass out the slips ahead of time for the parents to sign, and have the group members bring them back to you before the project. Make sure all the information is on the slip. Date and time of the activity, purpose of the activity, etc.
10. As the project dates grow closer, follow through with the group members to make sure they are still available for this activity, and check with the person you are helping to make sure the schedule is the same.
11. When the time comes, give everyone a time and location to meet for the activity, confirm that you have transportation for all group members, vehicles and supplies for hauling and loading, drivers for those vehicles, refreshments for all group members, and anything else you may need. Last minute problems are not fun. Contact the person you are moving and confirm with them the time you will be arriving at their home.
12. On moving day. Gather everyone together before you start. Remind them to be safe and careful, and then assign responsibilities to your group members. Have someone supervise the moving of items, and have someone supervise the loading. Things should go much smoother this way. When you get to the new location, take your time and work with the person you are moving, to determine where the items need to be placed. Don't let your group get fatigued. If they need to eat before the job is done, order in, or send someone to pick up some food, and take a break. If you can finish first, then take the group somewhere when you are done. God Bless and have fun!