

# Steubenville on the Bayou

## RECRUITING, FORMING AND TRAINING CHAPERONES

- Recruiting Chaperones:
  - Begin to make announcements from the pulpit, place announcements in the bulletin, and make phone calls 5 months before the conference.
  - Have a meeting with all of your chaperones 3 months before the conference.
  - Be sure to review and share the Conference Policies, Basic Requirements of the Chaperone, and Sample Chaperone Training Day (these are found in the Appendix).
- Spiritual Formation of Chaperones:
  - The first responsibility of the chaperone is to direct the young people to Jesus by their words, actions, and responses.
  - Therefore it is important that chaperones have their own relationship with God and an understanding of the sacraments.
- Adults are in need of Spiritual Renewal, Catechesis, and Spiritual Formation. Take this opportunity to provide these things for your chaperones. Some suggestions for this include:
  - Bring your chaperones together for a day of prayer, including praise and worship, adoration, and teachings on the sacraments. Provide resources (see the Resource Section at the end of this manual)
  - Provide names of priests and others who can walk with them. Provide a list of any prayer meetings, retreats, or other adult gatherings that are held in your diocese.
  - Make use of the information on Evangelizing Adults in the Resource section of this manual.
  - Encourage your adults to have an accountability partner
- Training Chaperones:
  - At least 3 hours should be set aside for training chaperones. This can be done by someone from your area who has attended the conference (preferably the group leader if he/she is comfortable with this).
    - A sample chaperone training may be found in the Appendix.
    - Information on how to lead small groups may be found in the Appendix.

Once chaperones are in place and have gone through training, schedule a meeting of your chaperones and youth together. If at all possible, assign youth and chaperones to small groups before this meeting so they may have a chance to get to know each other.

It is important that chaperones be made aware of any special needs of the youth including but not limited to physical health, emotional or spiritual needs, as well as any special situations (examples may be divorce, death in the family, etc.).

## SAMPLE CHAPERONE TRAINING DAY SCHEDULE

Praise and Worship at times throughout the day. Scheduled breaks throughout the day to allow chaperones to discuss what they hear, ask each other questions, etc.

Topics for talks may include:

- Why Bring Youth to Steubenville on the Bayou?
- How to prepare and follow up with youth.
- Music: Praise and Worship;
- How teens relate to music, etc.

(Info on these topics can be found within this manual and from the Steubenville on the Bayou office. A Promo Video may be helpful as well. It can be ordered for \$5 from the Steubenville on the Bayou office.)

Allow for time during the day for:

- A time for questions and answers.
- The spirituality of the chaperone – “You can’t give what you don’t have.” (see Evangelizing Adults in the Resources section of this Appendix)
- Priests can give teachings on Mass and the sacraments. Gifts and manifestations of the Holy Spirit (Scripture and Catechism References on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in this Appendix)
- Praying with and ministering to teens during and after the conference (See Special Ministry Needs in the manual)
- Recognizing the need for counseling and the role the counselor plays during the conference (See Special Ministry Needs in the manual)
- Preparing parents for the conference (see Organizing/Hosting Meetings with Parents, Teen, Chaperones in the manual)
- Have teens give personal testimonies to provide insight on what young people are struggling with and what they need from chaperones and/or other adult leaders.

Allow a time of empowerment (Empowerment is prayer for an increase and release of the gifts of the Holy Spirit that were received at Baptism. This can be done in a closing Mass or prayers with a guest priest.)