

CELEBRATION IDEAS FOR AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

Year-End Celebration is an exciting time to celebrate the accomplishments of each clubber and the impact your club has made. We love to award and honor our clubbers for their achievements, but sometimes awards ceremonies can feel long and drawn out. Kids get antsy, parents get bored, and your leaders struggle to keep everyone engaged. Here are some tips to keep your awards' ceremony efficient, memorable, and full of fun!

1. Create a fun video or slides about each club to play as they assemble on stage. This helps to create a constant flow of activity between group changes to avoid boredom or children being distracted. Also, parents love to see their children doing activities in club. Play a video of them singing their club theme song, create a slideshow of fun pictures, or have them recite a group memory verse!
2. Give book awards during club groups, and save special awards for the end of the year. Special awards are for clubber efforts outside of book memory. No one will know until the end who the winners will be! Try giving away awards such as "Brought Most Friends to Club", "Best Game Time Sportsmanship", or "Barnabas Award" for the most encouraging clubber.
3. Plan a grand Year-End Celebration night meant for families to celebrate the year of club activities. Spend part of the night handing out awards, and the rest of the time celebrating and having fun! See some examples below of how clubs have formatted their night:

"We do a 'Family Fun Night' with the awards' ceremony. Families come together. We show a video of highlights from the year; the kids from each group sing a song or recite verses. Then we pass out book awards, certificates, and a special gift for those graduating to youth group. Afterward, we put up bounce houses and have hot dogs and snow cones—all for free."
—Lindsey

"Our final night is split in half. First is Awards (45 minutes), then a free fun fair (45-60 minutes). Leaders sign up to supervise games. If leaders want/need prizes, we provide them. We have some carnival games we've played for many years, but leaders occasionally come up with their own." —Ellen

"We have had a spaghetti dinner. The kids served the parents and we played a video of pictures taken throughout the year. We did still give awards, but the focus was more on remembering the year and that the clubbers did throughout, not just what they achieved."

4. Honor the parents. Have your kids write letters of gratitude to their parents. You can select a couple kids and ask them to read their letters from the stage at Awards night! Parents will feel appreciated when you recognize them for the part they play in their child's accomplishments.
5. Create a theme for the night to help grow anticipation and investment for the entire family. Below is an example of a club that went all-out with their theme!

"We had a Red Carpet Award Night with a Hollywood stars sidewalk, glamour station (face painting), paparazzi, and a Hall of Fame. The youth clubs were the wait staff for our fancy sit down restaurant! Our gym was packed with parents who had made 'reservations' to the high style award night. I got top hats for the male leaders and boas for the female leaders. The invitations had the dress code: Awana uniform or a favorite theme night or formal. So everyone could choose what they wanted to wear!" —Faye

Tip: Consider enlisting help! You might have parents who are passionate about decorating and would love to help plan your Year-End Celebration theme.