

OPEN HOUSE IDEAS

Oscars Night

At the last Open House we just had recently, we decided to divert from the Western theme and have an Oscars Night. We also had a Forgiveness Night on top of it and invited 10 former members back. We did advertise also - in the local calendar section of the newspaper.

Oscars are not easy to find, so we settled for Winner's cups at the local Party store. We gave "Oscars" for the person who had the most weeks of weight loss during the year - consecutive and non consecutive. We gave an Oscar for the most attendance for the year and the one who has lost the most weight for the year. We also bought party gifts that were like Olympic ribbons and gave one to each person who attended that night. Our theme was TOPS - Where the Stars Come Out. As the people came in, we had posters with some basic information on it - plus a fact sheet from our chapter giving the Pledge and our songs that we sing. We also had copies of Dr. Rankin's books to look at and a Choice Is Yours. We strung stars all over the room and the invitations had stars stickers on them. We did a skit and our regular program - although we did explain things along the way to the visitors. We had four visit and three join, plus one return, so it definitely was a successful night.

We had signs and press releases saying that we were hoping to "Scare up some new members" in hollowed colors. I was the MC for the evening and we abbreviated our business so that we could get right to the program. I asked one of our long standing Kops to talk for a little about what Tops meant to her and then I asked a gal who has only been in our chapter for 9 successful weeks. She was very good, as was the Kops. We served coffee, tea, and bottled water and we had a pumpkin weight guess contest. All in all it went off beautifully. We advertised in the local paper and the pennysaver. We also have a TV channel that will mention your non profit affairs if you send them a t shirt with your groups name on it. We did a survey of the guests and asked them what had brought them to the meeting and the newspaper was the big winner. We had also posted our handouts on the bulletin board at the center where we meet and in store windows around the area. One more thing, we send postcards to recent former members asking them to come back and it brought at least one back.

Good luck on anyone's open house. It is worth it.

We tell our Chapter members to gain new friendships and bring in one or two friends for the Open House day. We speak and plan how we can make members and newcomers feel welcome in our Chapter and we try to get more understanding. We create invitation cards and we have single cards, two, in the same envelope. Members asked their friends to write the name down and they bring the single cards back to the Chapter meeting. That way we know how many people come for Open House. This works for us, I hope you like the ideas. We use the single cards on > Open House > for table settings.