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All Pro Dad's Day

10 Ways to host an All Pro Dad's Day

Never has such a simple concept been so noble!

Arising out of the tragic loss of his son and feeling the need to help families, Indianapolis resident Bill Bissmeyer started the first Dad's Day group in a small restaurant just a few years ago. The purpose of Dad's Day is to set aside time each month for dads and their kids to spend together, to equip dads to be better parents, to help kids understand their dads better, and to enjoy a nice meal!

Since Bill started his first group, over 1100 people across the state of Indiana now participate. All Pro Dad has joined up with Bill to take Dad's Day nationwide. In ten simple steps, you can start your own All Pro Dad's Day group no matter where you live. Traditionally, separate Dad's Days have been done for fathers/sons and fathers/daughters - but it doesn't have to be. Please make sure if you have any questions or decide to start a group, e-mail Bryan at: bryan@allprodad.com or call him at 813-222-8278. We can provide ideas and materials to help your group flourish!

Here's how to start a group:

1. Pick a day of the month
2. Pick a site that can host the group on the dates selected
3. Select a committee of four people
4. Assign duties to each of the committee members
5. Promote the event through local papers and churches
6. Create a list of required items
7. Seek out good speakers
8. Make the event fun and enjoyable
9. Create a "contact list" each meeting
10. Create a meeting agenda

1. Pick a day of the month

Most groups meet early before school on Thursdays or Fridays.

Hints:

The last Thursday or Friday of each month is tough due to Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Watch spring break conflicts. Decide whether you want to stay through the school year or meet all year-round.

2. Pick a site that can host the group on the desired day

Suggestions:

Anywhere that you can have the event without causing parking problems is satisfactory.

A local restaurant that would open up early is a good choice.

Pick a site that can hold 30% more people that you believe you will have originally.

3. Select a committee of four people

Suggestion:

Pick people who you enjoy working with. This committee will formulate the future of your group.

4. Assign duties to each of the four committee members. The members of the committees will:

- Plan for speakers.
- Manage location, food and day of event.
- Publicity promoter/communication person (Fax, mail or e-mail).
- Front table manager.

5. Promote the event through local papers/churches/schools

Suggestions:

Be original.

Initially a telephone committee will be the best approach.

Have your kids hang flyers at their schools.

There are no tricks, but we suggest that you get people's fax or e-mail addresses to be able to contact for the following monthly meeting.

6. Create a list of required items

Take a look at what you will need for the event. Allow the food to be handled independently from the event items.

Front table: Have a front table where you can greet people when they come in.

Collect the funds for the event at that point. You should have a cash box to make change.

To get names, you will need sign-in cards at each table for the parents to fill out and leave on the table. Don't do it when people come in because it slows up the line.

Each month will have a theme given by All Pro Dad. All you need to do is log into a special page we'll have set up to see this month's theme and download a free corresponding article (called Red Zone Resource) for you to hand out to the dads attending the meeting.

Also, you may want to contact local businesses for any kind of free merchandise/certificates. Even if they don't donate very much, kids always think that winning a prize is pretty cool!

7. Seek out good speakers

This is the most important foundation on which you should build your group. The parents will return if the message is strong, focused and interesting. The children will return if the message has meaning to them. Finding the right speaker requires the speaker to be able to bridge the two groups. Here are some types of speaker suggestions:

- Firefighters
- War Veterans
- Athletes/Coaches
- Those with great fatherhood stories
- Comedians (clean ones of course!)
- Teachers
- Government officials
- Local DJ's/Television reporters

You get the idea. Getting a speaker will probably be one of the most important and challenging aspects of All Pro Dad's Day.

8. Make the event fun and enjoyable

The event has to include laughter. Laughter is the medicine for family togetherness. You could have kids introduce their dads and tell a funny story about them.

On a more serious note, you could have kids introduce their fathers and tell the group why they are proud of their dad. And vice versa. Some ideas for introductions are:

- This is my son _____ and I am proud of him because _____
- This is my dad _____ and one fun thing we did last month is _____
- This is my daughter _____ and the funniest thing I ever saw her do is _____

The introductions can be funny or sentimental but it's very important for dads and their kids to be recognized for the good things they do.

9. Create a contact list each meeting

This is of great importance! Put the list on Excel and allow it to grow. Each meeting new names will be added. Decide how you plan to send out announcements – many groups uses faxes or e-mails.

10. Create a meeting agenda

Most of the weekday agendas follow this timetable:

6:15 am: Open Buffet

6:20 am: Kickoff

- Opening Prayer
- Theme Overview
- Family Introductions

6:45 am: Pep Talk

- Introduce the Speaker

7:13 am: 2 minute drill

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- Red zone resource: Hand out this month's free All Pro Dad article
- Select names for any door prizes you might have

7:15 am: Adjourn promptly so everyone can get to school

If you meet on the weekend, you can adjust the times accordingly. End the meetings promptly, even if you have to rush the speaker. Prompt the speaker so they know their time allocation. And pick the youngest member of the group to ring the closing bell at the right time.

To help you start and promote All Pro Dad's Day, All Pro Dad will give you:

- A free web page on Allprodad.com listing your name, group location, times and upcoming events.
- A free monthly article to hand out to fathers who come to All Pro Dad's Day
- Promotion on our daily Play of the Day e-mail list to 10,000 subscribers
- Our consultation on helping your group thrive.

All for FREE!

So there you have it - all you need to start an All Pro Dad's Day group and help strengthen families in your community. So what are you waiting for? Contact Bryan Davis at 813-222-8278 or e-mail at: bryan@allprodad.com and he'll get you started!