

YELL! Newsletter

Spring 2014 Volume 2, Issue 1

Volunteer · Serve · Connect · Contribute



YELL! Group 108 giving to Toys for Tots

Start Planning Now

Let's get spring started with a jolt! If you haven't had the first YELL! meeting of the year, have one in March. Try to do at least 4 community activities this year. If summer is too busy, plan a couple of events in the spring before school gets out. Then, plan some events in the fall to get everyone rallied again. Suggestions for spring events are to do some gardening or helping to clean up a park after the long (long!) winter. In the fall, some YELL! groups have helped with Halloween parties held by the lodge or do a hayride. Check the Fraternal Heralds for more ideas for the year.

Recruitment funds

A new year of recruitment funds have been approved for 2014. The funds are to be used by the YELL! groups to encourage new members to come and join the group. This can be accomplished by either having existing members invite friends and family or by inviting current wfla members who are younger to come and find out about YELL! Bowling parties, skating parties, and BBQ's have all been approved as ways of spending recruitment funds. For more information go to : <http://www.wflains.org/images/YELL/YELL%20Reimbursement%20Form.pdf>

Mentoring = Sustainability

The purpose of the YELL! is to help create a bridge between the younger and older members of the wfla through service and to grow active membership within the lodges. It is important, then, to make sure that the groups and friendship we create can be sustainable in the future. To make sure we have sustainable YELL! groups, we (and I include myself as I'm a part of the YELL! group in Cedar Rapids) need to start getting new members involved. One idea for this is to start a mentoring program within YELL! groups. This could help younger siblings become involved slowly or could be used to help ease a new member into the group. The first step would be to invite them to an event the YELL! group is helping at so they know what events to anticipate. Explain the lodge and the need for new members, in a way to let them know they are welcome but not obligated. This would work best if every member was able to reach out to one new person. Each year, our YELL! groups are going to get older and more are going to graduate. If the YELL! groups are to succeed, either getting the original group to come back and continue involvement or finding new members are the only options.

Youth Collections Ambassador

Do you have kids who want to be involved but are just a little too young for the YELL! group? Make them a Youth Collection Ambassador. This idea comes from Lodge 109 in Oklahoma, who has implored its youngest members to collect the box tops, soup can labels, pop tabs and other collection items to be donated. Each young member is responsible for their own collection and can start a drive at home or at school. Whether you choose to make it a competition or not, it is a great way to get the youngest members to become involved in giving back!

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Celebrate Service National Volunteer Week: April 6-12

The Points of Light Foundation recognizes National Volunteer Week as April 6-12. National Volunteer Week is about taking action and encouraging individuals and their respective communities to be at the center of social change discovering and actively demonstrating their collective power to make a difference.

As volunteer groups, we are in a unique position to get organized and do some good during National Volunteer Week. Here are a few suggestions:

- Clean up a cemetery or park
- Make Easter Baskets to give to children at shelters, school or daycares (call the school or daycare to find out what they will approve for gifts)
- Go door to door doing a food can collection for a local pantry or food bank
- Volunteer to spend some time at a retirement or nursing home playing games with the residents

Inspirations!

The best form of flattery is imitation, right? With that in mind, I want to share some of the activities that YELL! Groups have done this year. Yell! Group 225 had a whole Saturday of activities in November. It included two service projects, sewing pillowcases, and making cards, a trip to the movie theater, and a volleyball match!



YELL! 225 making cards



Graduate Drawing

If you are a member of wfla and graduating from high school, college, or technical school, or know somebody who is, we would like to acknowledge you or them in the June issue of the *Fraternal Herald*. We will also enter the name in a drawing for three prizes of \$100 each. Please send in the completed form by May 15. Mail to: Fraternal Department, Western Fraternal Life Association, 1900 First Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402.

I would like to enter my name in the Graduate Drawing.

Please Print

Name _____

Address _____

School _____

Phone No. _____

Lodge No. _____

Mail To: Fraternal Department, Western Fraternal Life Association, 1900 First Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Must be received by May 15. For more information, call 1-877-wflains.

YOUTH ART CONTEST

Theme

YOUR

SUPERPOWER

FOR
WFLA YOUTH
MEMBERS
BETWEEN THE
AGES OF 5-15

THE PRIZES ARE

Category 1 : Ages 5-7

First	\$25
Second	\$15
Third	\$10

Category 2 : Ages 8-9

First	\$30
Second	\$20
Third	\$15

Category 3 : Ages 10-12

First	\$35
Second	\$25
Third	\$20

Category 4 : Ages 13-15

First	\$55
Second	\$35
Third	\$25

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

This year, our theme is: **Your Superpower**. This can be an imaginary power that you would like to have or a real power you possess, such as being compassionate or good at sports, math, singing, reading, dancing, etc. Be creative in how you see yourself and use your superpowers!

Youth Art Month is an annual observance each March to emphasize the value of art education for all children. Art education develops self-esteem, appreciation of the work of others, self-expression, cooperation with others, and critical thinking skills. These skills are vital to the success of our future leaders, our children.

What Can Be Entered?

Any original drawing of the theme mentioned above; no smaller and no larger than 8½" x 11". All entries must be on plain white paper or poster board suitable for mounting. Do not use tracing or light weight paper.

What Materials Can Be Used?

Colored pencils, crayons, water colors, markers, poster paints, ink, oils, acrylics, or mixed media. No chalk!

General Rules

1. Artist must be a member of wfla.
2. Entry must be received by May 31, 2014.
3. Judges reserve the right to accept or reject any or all entries. Their decisions will be final.
4. Contestants may submit two entries.
5. Contestants can win only one prize.
6. Winners will be announced in the August *Fraternal Herald*.
7. Work will be handled at the Home Office with the utmost care and will be returned.

How Do I Enter?

Entries are due May 31, 2014. Entries need to include a school photo (if possible), along with your name, address, phone number, wfla lodge number, city, and state. Please put your name on the back of your entry and on your photo. Describe what you have drawn on another sheet of paper.

Send all entries and your school photo to:

Art Contest
Western Fraternal Life Association
1900 First Avenue NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-5372

WFLA reserves the right to reproduce entries.