

Family Nights

The Family Supper

"She sets a good table" is a familiar phrase used to describe a gal who's handy with the mixing bowl and knows her "vittles." How about you're Aerie?

Sandwiches and coffee are good eating for some occasions. But why not get yourself a good reputation as an Aerie that serves regular family suppers?

No member of the family will balk at going to meals such as outlined below.

A word to the wise: Just because cooking is involved don't pass all the work on to the Auxiliary, no matter how willing they are. Men make mighty good cooks. Let them – and their sons - take a hand at something like the Chuck Wagon Banquet.

Whatever the form of meal served use a theme even if you have to fall back on one of the four seasons of the year. What about a "Grandpa 'n Grandma" Night, a "Sign of the Zodiac" fest in which all birthdays in the month are noted.

Smorgasbord

Set aside one night each month for an easy-to-serve yourself buffet. Calling it a smorgasbord gives it color.

Serve the standbys people like – baked beans, hot potato salad, meat loaf or hot tamales, relishes, breads, cakes.

Appoint rotating committees of five to – plan food to be served and to call people if, for example, cakes are to be donated; take care of setting the tables; cleaning up.

Chuck Wagon

Fits in well with square dancing. Wear old sports clothes – blue jeans and that sort of thing. Food is spread out on plank tables.

Rustic outdoor style prevails.

Food – barbequed beef, baked potatoes, corn on the cob (in season), doughnuts, and coffee.

Music – country western – records or live.

Pancake or Waffle Supper

Just pancakes or waffles n coffee. But with plenty of spreads, syrups, jams, preserves, chopped nuts. If you're rolling in money, you could also serve little pork sausages. This is one of the simplest and most acceptable forms of eating pleasure.

Pot Luck Supper

Old fashioned but still very popular. Various people are asked to bring a pot of some hot food (casserole), etc. Food is served family style.

"Special"

These are the special affairs, usually marking an anniversary, a national holiday, or an important event. Folks dress up; sit down to a meal with all the fixings. A toastmaster is needed, a few brief speeches suitable to the occasion, and usually a short program of entertainment – singing, for the most part, or playing some musical instrument.

Card Parties and Bingo

Find out which card games your Aerie members and their families most enjoy playing.

Let each family bring its own deck of cards.

Just for fun, rope off a corner section of the room (a barricade of chairs will do it, or a bit of wash line), for those players who take playing very seriously.

From time to time arrange a tournament either on the basis of high scorer from each family or high scorer over a period of time.

Provide inexpensive prizes.

If, for example, a group of people would like to learn how to play some new card game, arrange for someone in the Aerie to teach them.

From time to time have a family bingo party.

Provide prizes for winners.

Human Bingo is a little stunt to start things off. As a guest arrives at the door, he is presented with a piece of paper and a pencil and told to draw four lines to each direction of the paper, making 25 squares. More or fewer lines can be used according to the number anticipated at the party. The player must then get the signature of people coming into the room or already there, one signature to each block on the paper.

When nearly half the people have completed their sheets, have everyone sit down. Pass one simple object, such as a ball or coin, along from person to person while lively music is played. When the music stops, the person holding the object stands and tells his name. Names are crossed off as they are given and when anyone has complete row of crosses in any direction he yells "Bingo"

Prizes of course

Movie Night for the Family

Take a simple poll of your Eagle families via the Aerie bulletin to find out what kind of movies they'd like shown at the Aerie on Family Movie Night. Stick to the following classifications in the poll: Travel, Adventure, Sports, Americana (various states and sections of the country), Cartoons and drama.

Such a list will give you something to go on in choosing the films to be shown.

A community sing before the movies are shown gives the audience a feeling of participation. Included should be a "Happy Birthday to You" to those whose birthdays fall on the day of your program.

Note: Public libraries have very fine films for loan out. Be sure to book well in advance.

Family Hobby Shows

Once a month have three or four families combine to put on a hobby show. If the Aerie is a small one, put on a one family hobby show. Plan to keep the exhibit up for a couple weeks.

When one exhibit is ready to come down, plan on having another take its place. If the hobby lends itself to a demonstration, so much the better.

In that event, the Aerie can have a series of Hobbies We Work at evenings. The members of families participating could tell what prompted them to start on the specific hobby. Some background material could be given on the hobby and each member of the family could tell just what part he contributes to the pastime.

The audience could ask questions if they liked. Afterwards a few members from the audience could try their hand at the hobby at hand lent itself to that sort of thing. (For example: tying fishing flies, hand painting ties, refinishing furniture, leather craft). Audience participation of this sort always adds to the interest and success of the event.

A demonstration of block card printing could well point the way to a good many Eagle families making their own Christmas cards. In an individual family, one member might take care of purchasing the supplies necessary, another trace the designs on the block, still another – the head of the family, perhaps because if he's handy with a penknife he's a cinch – cut out the design and the neatest member of the family take over the inking job.

There would be no element of competition between the various exhibits. No prizes need be given for the "biggest and/or the best."

Don't overlook films on crafts. Sound movies on various phases of arts and crafts instruction may be borrowed, free of charge, except for mailing expense, from the American Crayon Company, Sandusky, Ohio.

End your series of Hobbies We Work At with a big free for all Hobby Show to which you might well invite neighboring Aeries and local organizations in your community.

Prize Photo

Newspaper photo contest have gained in popularity the past few years. Sponsor a Camera Buff contest for black and whites and color pictures. Have them projected on to a screen; let members vote on the best. Or, have some knowledgeable person from a camera shop, etc.; explain why a particular photo ranks "best". Use age classifications to as to include children of members in a special category

Family Vodvil Night

Family units might put on home talent type acts. For example, one family might make up a "kitchen band", another give a skit, others sing as a quartette, etc.

Or, put on home talent acts individually. (See pamphlet, HOME TALENT SHOW, for ideas)

Family Night Quiz

These are fun, make up your own beforehand (See procedure) on such topics as nature, sports, the Bible, movies, proverbs, food, and music and so on. Have your list of answers ready and be sure that they are correct.

Or, use any of the Eagle quizzes available: Sports, Eagles, Cities and States, Headliners.

Professor Quiz

He might wear a dunce cap and a pair of horn rim glasses.

Procedure

Make out ten questions, each complete with three clues and correct answers.

Example: Old Time Movies Quiz

Question: What famous actor, still living, starred in the picture, "Tillies Punctured Romance?"

Clue 1: He was born in London and spent most of his early life in an orphanage.

Clue 2: His stock in trade was funny little mustache, a trick walk and a cane.

Clue 3: His outstanding pictures which built up his reputation as the undisputed king of pantomime were: "The Gold Rush," "City Lights," and much later, "The Dictator," and "Bluebeard."

Answer: Charlie Chaplin

(You can make up a movie quiz by looking through any current movie magazine, sports, by going through an accumulation of sport pages of the local newspapers. Let the kids make out a few quizzes on the subjects of interest to them).

Fold each question, so that neither the question nor the answer is visible. Put all the questions in a basket. Have the Professor call up the first contestant from the audience. An equal number of adults and young folk should be selected. The contestant picks out one of the slips, hands it, unopened, to the Professor. Mr. Quiz reads the question and gives the first clue. If the contestant gives the wrong answer, he is disqualified. If he gives no answer, he is given the second clue, and then the third. If the correct answer is not forthcoming at the end of no more than two minutes, he is disqualified. If he gives the correct answer, he is a winner. In either case it is time for the second contestant to be called to the platform.

Prizes

Give humorous prizes of nominal value.

Rules

No advance information as to questions or answers

No coaching from the audience

A time limit of 2 minutes for answering questions

Note: If movies don't appeal, base the quiz on TV programs and personalities. Back copies of TV guide can be very helpful if you want to go back a few years.

Country Fair

"Come to the fair!" Once upon a time that was an invitation that anybody could hear at the crossroads or along country lanes. Everybody took a day off at least once a year and went to it.

A fair is an occasion when the "best" products can be exhibited.

Thus, your Aerie/Auxiliary would exhibit the best crafts, (how about things best displaying the Eagle emblem?) garden produce such as tomatoes, cord, gourds, scrapbooks, cakes, pies, etc. Use imagination in exhibiting.

The best fun games, athletic, contests, parades, music, stunts, recreation features of all kinds – can be taken part in on a "parade ground" (part of the Aerie hall).

Rules for a Fair

Whatever rules you draw up for your fair, see that they get wide publicity well in advance of fair-time.

There should be no fee for entry of exhibits.

All entries should be in the hands of the Secretary before 5 p.m. of the day before the fair.

All exhibits should be in position before 10 a.m. the day of the fair.

No exhibit should be allowed to compete for more than one premium.

No exhibitor should be allowed to make more than one entry in each class.

All plants, flowers, fruits and vegetables offered in exhibition should be legibly labeled.

After exhibits are entered they should be under the exclusive charge of the committee and should not be moved without its consent.

Entries

The more the merrier. To insure a good crowd invite the families of neighboring Aeries.

Judges

Pick 'em from the outside if possible. Then Mrs. Smith won't be apt to say that Mrs. Jones got the blue-ribbon because the judge was her husband's first cousin.

A recorder might go along with the judges to make a record of who gets the blue, the red and the yellow ribbons which are generally used to indicate, first, second and third place.

Program

You can have all kinds of fun with banners, slogans, etc. in a "parade" even though this is held in the hall. Take a leaf from the book of our European cousins who deck out their farm animals in ribbons and flowers and gay papers. A couple of dogs could substitute for farm animals.

Lunch (box)

Recreation events (depending on what you've got to offer)

Community Singing

Square Dance exhibition

Awarding of ribbons

Country Fair Entertainment Booths

You will need a clever person to serve as "barker" for he is responsible for selling the tickets and drawing the people.

Fortune Teller

Everybody likes to be told their past, present and future no matter how inaccurate the information may be. What's more, people are willing to pay good money for the information. If you expect a big crowd have more than one fortune teller – a palmist and a crystal gazer, perhaps.

Throwing Horseshoe Nails

Set up a 12-inch square of soft wood against a backboard for use as a target. Mark the wood block with a bullseye and two rings. Contestants throw horseshoe nails at the target from 10 to 12 feet away.

For the scoring, the bull's-eye counts five points; the inner ring counts three; the outer ring, two. Have three grades of prizes for this booth. A score of five to nine points wins one of the smaller prizes, 10 to 14 points wins a better prize, and over 15 points has a choice of the top grade prize. Five throws for 10¢.

Storyteller's Tent

Here a storyteller may delight the children and at the same time keep them out of mischief of 10¢ a piece.

Bean Bag Throw

Set up a bean bag board with numbered holes in it. Each time a contestant throws a bag through one of the holes he scores in points the number on the hole. A prize is given for a score fixed in advance by the committee.

Nine Pins

This may be played with so many shots for a dime and a prize given for knocking over all the pins at one shot. Apple or ball "ten pins" with a basket underneath to catch the apples as they fall may make a nice variation of this game.

Treasure Trove

A burlesque on the commonly know gift packages sold everywhere. Bags or boxes are made up to contain about 10 pieces of caramel candy and in each box should be included a small present - a pocket mirror, shoe laces, etc., while in other boxes there are certain more expensive gifts known as "ballys." These packages should be so marked that the salesman may recognize them at a glance but not the buyer. All the packages sell at the same price, of course. Everybody gets something but only a few get the more expensive prizes. The purpose of marking is so that the barker won't give all the big stuff away right off the bat.

Ring Toss

Cotton Balls covered with tissue paper are thrown from a distance of 8 to 10 feet through a small hoop hung in the air.

Cutting Cards

Three cuts of a regular deck of cards are given to each contestant and total of cards turned up is scored. From two to ten – face value. Jack, Queen, King count ten; Ace counts fifteen points. Anyone getting three Aces gets choice of inexpensive prizes.

Suggested Speech

Today there is great concern over the family.

Many are asking, can the family survive, and others are criticizing men and women for the seemingly sad state of marriage and family and eloquently exhorting them to do better as wives and husbands, as fathers and mothers. Or else! To our way of thinking that sort of complaint comes from people who are still continuing to think of the family of two or three generations ago. They expect husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, to act in the same way and play the same functions as the family of long ago.

It would be better for us though to stop talking about solving the family problems because life is a series of problems and family life will always be problematical. It is, after all, an aspiration, an attempt to achieve a way of life, to work out intimate, personal human relationships.

Emerson said that you cannot toss a pebble without changing the center of gravity of the universe.

In the same way, two people cannot marry, bear and rear children without having a profound and ever spreading impact on the whole of our national life, nor can they marry, establish a home and children without being exposed to the full force of our social, economic, political, and other activities, including our international affairs.

Today the typical American family is trying to learn to live in congested cities, in crowded dwellings. Moreover men and increasingly, women, must go out of the home to earn a living through gainful employment in an unstable economy where they must buy food and services and pay rent.

We have got to think, then, in terms of home and family life as a small circle in which various activities are carried on. But that circle is surrounded by a series of other circles – the immediate neighborhood, the community, the local government, state government, federal government. Each of these outer circles makes some claim on members of the family. The family is indeed on a treadmill.

Nowadays our homes are too small for recreation, for hospitality, for nursing the sick, for weddings and even for funerals. The family is forced out when most in need of the comfort of familiar surroundings.

In contrast, the schools are too large. Children are run like cars through the assembly line of education.

More than ever, families need the wide-flung door, the outstretched hand. That's our reason for Family Nights. We're not of the school that worries about the extinction of the family. In the midst of all the turmoil and conflicts of our society, the family nevertheless is the most stable institution we have.

We're all for encouraging that stability. Family participation programs are one way. For it bears out that all-important truth: The family that plays together stays together!

(Sample Press Release)

Chuck Wagon Supper

_____Aerie

Fraternal Order of Eagles

A chuck wagon supper, first in a planned series of family night suppers, was held last night by _____Aerie,

At the Aerie home_____.

Guests came dressed in cottons, blue jeans and among the youngest set, cowboy outfits. After a meal served Western-style, the members were entertained by quartet singing cowboy songs.

Commenting on the fine turnout of Eagle families_____.

_____, Worthy President, said, "We have always encouraged family attendance at Aerie programs. But we plan to go a step further by planning a series of programs directed at family participation. We're great believers in the axiom that the family that plays together stays together."

Chairman of the event was _____