

Chibarana Brainstorming Session Results

The following ideas are the result of the brainstorming session that was held during the Chibarana workshop on Friday, February 23, 2007. The groups were asked to discuss three questions. The ideas are grouped by questions.

Question 1: Share something that your club does to encourage participation that has not been covered by a presenter this evening.

1. Change the program format at shinnen enkai to include all ages: present skits that involve everyone, including children, on various aspects of Okinawan culture (appeal to their sense of relevance): shinnen enkai, history; children's corner with crafts and games manned by younger members of the club; recognize 80 and 65 year olds with gift, plaque, free meal and lei; have good door prizes; do small craft projects for senior citizens; hire professional entertainment, i.e. magician, Balloon Monsoon.
2. Have sharing of culture by senior members through storytelling, talk story sessions, meetings.
3. Have new types of events: Grandparents Day, Mahalo Party for volunteers, Grad night, Haari Boat Race.
4. Celebrate special club anniversaries with displays of history, recognition of charter members and past presidents, a concert of Okinawan dance and music.
5. Publish an anniversary booklet or a book on the history of the club membership, "original" and current families, and different generations. (This becomes a reference for later generations.)
6. Sponsor an exchange student program.
7. Treat your club officers or "older" members to cultural events by giving them tickets purchased by the club.
8. Have a network to inform members of activities: newsletters to all members, one-on-one phone calls.
9. Participate in sports leagues: baseball, volleyball, etc.; also, have youth level sports.
10. Do community service projects: perform at care homes with members of family every other month doing hula, Okinawa dance, line dance; sponsor cultural classes; sponsor seminars and special programs where club members can utilize their special talent; give free performing arts lessons, etc.
11. Do surveys (to get feedback) and volunteer sign-ups at shinnen enkai and picnic.
12. Have the youth energize other youths - young officers recruiting other young officers.
13. Draft a friend and have members bring their friends to help at festival and craft fairs.
14. Provide opportunities for cultural and social outings: have a club excursion instead of a picnic, trip to Las Vegas, plays, movies as a group, movie night at the HOC.
15. Organize an Okinawan club in school and have younger members participate through school.
16. Inject more social things that can become cultural.
17. Sponsor scholarships.
18. Assign the planning of activities (shinnen enkai/picnic) to families or aza.
19. A strategic planning session with the help of a grant allows people who are not involved to get involved in a different way.

Question 2: How does your club tie in the Okinawan culture into your club activities to stimulate cultural awareness?

1. Have the following for entertainment at shinnen enkai: Okinawan dance and music, taiko performance, shiisa performance, historical presentations of the Okinawan city, productions relating to Okinawan culture,
2. Have Okinawan games at picnics - some games that the issei did.
3. Honor the issei at shinnen enkai: kagimaya (97 year olds), koreicha (over 80).
4. Play games that incorporate the Okinawan language: putting number cards in order, Uchinanchu Bingo,
5. Sharing of DVD and family photos, video of Okinawan trip, maps for a deeper understanding of one's ancestral village,
6. Have mini-courses in cooking, how to tie konbu, how to drop andagi, Okinawan history,
7. Include exchange students in club/HUOA activities.
8. Have a cultural committee in your club.
9. Collect oral history from older members and families and have the kids do it as a project-film and interview their grandparents.
10. Have cultural exhibits at club events.
11. Have a children's corner at shinnen enkai which includes small kid crafts, inserts for their binders - informational inserts each year include proverbs, stories, foods, geography, current topics/events, and history.
12. Sponsor scholarship (50%) to children's day camp to stimulate interest.
13. Consider a high school exchange scholarship to Okinawa.
14. Win a prize if you participate in the kachashi at shinnen enkai.

Question 3: What can your club do to encourage participation of the younger members?

1. Have Okinawan entertainment at golf tourneys to expose younger people.
2. Share Okinawan DVDs and CDs on big screen.
3. They need to go to Okinawa, then they'll have interest.
4. Find benefits for your members: community service, tying karate to Okinawa, cooking demos, teach how to "drop" andagi, promote food contests, i.e. best andagi, best goya champuru.
5. Teachers should provide an opportunity for community service by asking students to help at the festival, by giving extra-curricula credit, or by arranging for school credit for participation.
6. Start an Okinawan club in high schools.
7. Provide scholarships or grants, also, scholarship to HUOA Summer Camp.
8. Have the more experienced members mentor the younger/newer members, and have younger members bring in their friends and peers to do important "work".
9. Beat the bushes for leaders and participants for the Leadership Study Tour.
10. Gear it for the younger generation: aim cultural events at younger ones, kid oriented cultural activities.
11. Recruit young helpers for the student exchange, also, recruit Jr. leaders from clubs to assist with children's day camp.
12. Keep HUOA open to all, non-Okinawans and Okinawans-at-heart.

13. Sponsor sports teams (volleyball, softball) and have the participants commit to volunteer with club events.
14. Use genealogy to teach the younger people of their ancestors' history, lives, and connections with other club members; capture the culture and the history of the older leaders in writing.
15. Have a children's corner during HUOA and other Okinawan club meetings to give parents a way to take care of their kids while participating and cause kids to start a bond with the clubs. There will be a resurgence of interest in the younger generation in their culture.
16. Have a more dynamic Internet source. Technology needs to improve, and the younger generation could lead this.
17. Make personal contact, be persistent and ask them again and again.