Building Powerful Youth Consultants for Today and Tomorrow

When including youth in family history, consider making family history social, spiritual, and simple.

SOCIAL

Some youth attend Church for social reasons. You can make family history a social experience and involve more youth by doing the following:

• Look for ways to make family history fun:
  ◦ Bring food.
  ◦ Make the family history center more inviting to youth.
  ◦ Connect family history to other events, such as youth conference or mutual.
  ◦ Use friendly competition to engage the youth and encourage participation.
  ◦ Use social media and technology.
  ◦ Use FamilySearch resources or FamilySearch partner activities.

• Involve those youth who influence other youth.
• Allow the youth to lead out in training other youth in family history.
• Show the youth that their peers are participating in family history. This will help the youth recognize their capabilities.

SPIRITUAL

Family history is more than historical research and finding deceased ancestors. Family history is a spiritual work where hearts can be changed. Youth can experience heart-turning moments in a variety of ways.

• Family history is more than research. It includes such activities as:
  ◦ Journal writing
  ◦ Cooking family recipes
  ◦ Playing family games
  ◦ Sharing family stories

• Family history should provide hands-on experiences for the youth.
  ◦ This gives the youth opportunities to serve.
  ◦ The experiences should not be overprogrammed.

• Keeping a youth-centered vision allows the youth to:
  ◦ Learn how the Spirit works and speaks to them.
  ◦ Feel that they belong and can be someone’s hero.
  ◦ Better prepare for a mission and future life experiences.

Parents and leaders, you will stand all amazed at how rapidly your children and the youth of the Church become highly skilled with these tools.... The youth can offer much to older individuals who are uncomfortable with or intimidated by technology or are unfamiliar with FamilySearch. You also will count your many blessings as young people devote more time to family history work and temple service” (David A. Bednar, “The Hearts of the Children Shall Turn,” Ensign or Liahona, Nov 2011, p27).
SIMPLE

As youth participate in family history in small ways, great outcomes can occur in their lives and in the lives of those around them.

- Accommodate busy youth schedules.
  - Incorporate family history in planned activities.
    - Young Men and Young Women activity nights.
    - Youth conferences.
  - Schedule time for youth consultants to be trained and fulfill their callings.
    - Leverage school breaks.
    - Use Sunday block time.
- Use mobile apps and technology to engage the youth in family history.
  - Use FamilySearch Tree and FamilySearch Memories mobile apps.
- As youth are converted to family history, they will make time for it.
  - Youth will lead out on initiatives that use social media.
  - Youth will do family history with their families.
  - Youth will have an increased desire to attend the temple.

“COMO CHEGUEI AQUI” CHALLENGES

» Episode 1: Museum
   Envelopes were hidden in the museum. Inside each envelope was a picture relating to the participants’ childhood. Each envelope led the participants to another envelope.

» Episode 2: Ropes Course
   Participants had to go through obstacles in nature. To pass each obstacle, they needed to answer a question about fun facts that had happened to them in their childhood.

» Episode 3: Parents’ Objects
   Participants’ parents selected 5 objects to describe their personalities and life (professional tools, childhood toys, and so on). Competitors were tested on their knowledge of their parents’ lives by choosing an object and answering questions related to it.

» Episode 4: Parents’ Love Story
   Each competitor had to write a creative, 1-minute essay about how their parents fell in love.

» Episode 5: Cooking with Grandma
   Each competitor cooked a recipe by listening to his or her grandma’s instructions on how to make a famous family dish.

» Episode 6: Beach Day
   Participants went to the beach and performed two different tasks:
   1. They jumped in the ocean and paddle boarded to shore.
   2. Once at shore, they answered questions about their grandparents. Every time they got a wrong answer, the “captain” had a chance to pour water on them, and they had to do squats and other exercises on the beach.

» Episode 7: Detectives
   Envelopes were hidden in a library. Each participant had to find them and do an activity, which helped them find their next envelope. The activities related to a unique or special event that happened to one of their great-grandparents.

» Episode 8: A Day without Technology
   Without access to technology, participants performed activities on the farm. This helped them experience their ancestors’ lives and imagine how it was for them to live back in their day.

» Episode 9: Re-Creating Old Pictures
   Old pictures were chosen for participants to re-create. They had to make the same facial expression, wear similar clothes, and re-create it in a similar place.

» Episode 10: Highlights of the First Season
   Friends and families of each participant joined in watching highlights of the first season and found out who won. Participants were asked about their journey during the show and how the challenges had helped them learn more about themselves and their families.

» Episode 11: Temple Episode
   The LDS participants went to the Campinas Brazil Temple to do baptisms for the dead.