

YOUTH ANIMATOR TRAINING



This program is designed to direct adolescents and young adults towards service to humanity. It is hoped that they will become channels for the flow of the powers of the human spirit: the power of unity, of love, of humble service and of pure deeds.

After a period of study, they will be offered the opportunity to mentor youth in the Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program. Under experienced supervision, the program tries to engage the expanding consciousness of both junior youth (11-15) and youth(15-29) in an exploration of reality that helps both groups to recognize the constructive and destructive forces at work in society and to understand the influence these forces exert on their thoughts and actions. Other program goals are to sharpen their spiritual perception, enhance their ability to draw on the power of the word, and reinforce moral structures that will serve them throughout their lives.

With this in mind, the first unit of the book, "Life's Springtime", focuses on the attributes that distinguish the period of youth in general. It seeks to clarify a number of concepts related to this stage of life, particularly the interplay between service, education and preparation for the future. An important concept introduced in the study of this material is that of a twofold moral purpose. A dual transformation –one at the level of the individual and a second in the structure of society that must take place in youth if they are to be productive. In this light, young people should strive to become endowed with a strong sense of purpose to take charge of their own intellectual and spiritual growth as well as to make enduring contributions to the betterment of society. These two aspects of moral purpose, the betterment of self and the betterment of society, are complementary and fundamentally inseparable for the standards and behavior that individuals exhibit shape their environment and in turn individuals are molded by social structures and processes.

The second unit of study is entitled, "An Age of Promise", and it is concerned with teaching youth about junior youth and their immense potentialities. It seeks to consolidate in the minds of those who study it the understanding that junior youth are members of a distinct age group, one with its own particular characteristics – characteristics which leave no doubt that it would be a mistake to treat them as children. The unit briefly examines the nature of early adolescence,

the challenges of directing the growing awareness of young people in this age range, effects of the environment on their lives, the concept of a "Junior Youth group" as an environment of mutual support, and the posture to be assumed by all those arising to serve as 'animators' of such groups.

Finally the discussion will turn to the question of complementary activities: service projects, sports, arts and crafts and the occasional special event engaged in by the youth and the junior youth group. The capability to serve will, of course, develop over time and one might start with the study portion only and progressively add other elements in keeping with growing experience.

If you are interested in participating/ serving please call 916-872-9907