



3-on-3 basketball or flag football tournament

Attraction

Thanksgiving is a big time for sports. Football is on television all weekend. Basketball season is just under way.

Bridge

Sports are a great medium for sharing Christ because they are nonthreatening and create fellowship and unity.

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Communicating the Gospel

A devotional or the plan of salvation can be shared at half-time of each contest or before each game. If only a devotional is shared, a gospel invitation should be given at a predetermined time when all participants are present (awards time, banquet, etc.)

Event-Specific Preparation

- While you will attract athletes of all types, serious athletes will expect good officiating and good organization, so recruit good officials and be well organized.
- Budget for trophies and/or other giveaways (jerseys; Sports Spectrum magazine, etc.)—everybody should get something. Athletic apparel and equipment companies might be willing to donate or give cut prices to charitable events.
- Athletic tracts and discipleship materials abound—research them in advance and have plenty on hand.
- Conduct the tournament on the Friday and Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend, with competition rounds in the morning, afternoon, and (depending on venue) evening, if necessary.
- Cut the field into divisions according to age and/or competition level.
- If there is a popular Christian athlete in your area, consider asking him or her to be present for one round of competition and to share his testimony.
- Advise local sports parachurch ministries such as Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Athletes in Action of your plans, and seek their guidance or assistance.

Enlist, equip, and mobilize the following ministry teams. Refer to the Ministry Team Preparation section of the manual for instructions on how the teams will function.

- Counseling/Follow-up Team
- Spiritual Preparation Team
- Promotion Team
- Effective Prayerwalking
- Creative/Worship Team
- Logistics Team