

Closure

The year passes so quickly and all of the sudden it is time to say good-bye to the friends you have made in your organization. It is often easy to forget about “closing out” the year with your organization. The following are some ideas for an easier and more memorable “good-bye.”

Ways to Say Good-Bye:

- Have a picnic or pot luck
- Have an awards banquet
- Evaluate the year
- Set goals for next year
- Have a gift exchange
- Solicit nominations and present funny awards
- Write farewell notes/cards to each other
- Give a memento to members – button, shirt, mug, picture in a frame, etc.
- Create individual autograph or message books for everyone to sign
- Make a scrapbook highlighting the past year’s events
- Create coupons for members to give to one another
- Have a T-shirt signing party
- Have a graduation party for departing members
- Have a good-bye movie night
- Create certificates for all members
- Have a slide show of activities from the year
- Plan a reunion over the break or when school resumes
- Share three things you will miss about each person in the group
- Have a retreat with the new officers to share evaluations of the year, answer questions, review the organization’s mission and purpose, and give advice
- Make “credit cards” for each member (cards that list the good qualities or skills each person has...ex. “I give you credit for being a great organizer and for being the peace maker during meetings.”)
- Share one thing you learned from being a member of the group
- Create an address book and include everyone’s summer address – photocopy for all
- Have a candle pass by forming a circle and whoever gets the candle has an opportunity to talk about what the organization and/or individual member means to him/her
- Have one final meeting to send off members who are not returning next semester. Put post-its on those members backs and have everyone else write why they are special by including their strengths

**Don’t be
dismayed at goodbyes.
A farewell is
necessary before you
can meet again.
And meeting again, after
moments or lifetimes,
is certain for those
who are friends.
-Richard Bach**

In conclusion, it is important to say good-bye somehow. Keep in mind that not everyone in your group will like sentimental good-byes, so take their feelings into consideration before planning any activities.

Adapted from LeaderBits, The University of Kansas

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